

Albert Donald Smith

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

APPROVED BY THE WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK AND SITUATION BOARD
USDA • ECONOMICS, STATISTICS AND COOPERATIVES SERVICE • AO-29



JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1978



January-February 1978/AO-29

Page

1 Commodities

On the basis of farmer reports in January, we could be heading for another year of big crops—disturbing news to producers and policymakers already concerned about weak farm prices.

9 Food and Marketing

Recent increases in farm product prices and in marketing charges are expected to push retail food prices moderately higher at least through midyear.

11 The U.S. and World Economies

The recent spurt in consumer spending is expected to continue into 1978, suggesting strong domestic demand for agricultural products. Also, the depreciation of the U.S. dollar in world markets, has made imported goods more expensive.

13 Inputs

Farm debts are expected to increase as rapidly in 1978 as last year as farmers may borrow more for operating purposes because of relatively low farm product prices. Overall, sufficient loan funds appear to be available.

15 World Agriculture and Trade

World food supplies have increased from a year ago, although at best last year's gains in food output only kept pace with population growth. Grain consumption is expected to be up marginally this year since a small rise in grain use for livestock feeding seems likely.

16 Reorganization Details

USDA's Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives agencies have been merged in order to enhance coordinate and improve research efficiency.

17 Recent Publications

A brief listing of recent USDA reports, arranged by subject matter, which might be of use to Agricultural Outlook readers.

19 Statistical Indicators

A tabular presentation of key data series for the food and fiber sector.

Editorial Staff

Economics Editor: Robert R. Miller (202) 447-7330

Assistant Economics Editor: Ruth Elleson (202) 447-7643

Managing Editor: Geraldine Schumacher (202) 447-6250

Editorial Staff: Adrie S. Custer, Neal Holland Duncan, L. Glenn Golden, Shirley Hammond, B. Eric Van Chantfort

Statistical Coordinator: Eileen Johnson

Production Staff: Dolores C. Burrell,

Carole L. Dishman, Patricia D. Hughes,

Edna L. James, Sheila L. Turner

For further information on subjects discussed in this report, you may wish to contact the persons listed at the end of individual sections.

Contents of this report have been approved by the World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board and the summary was released January 30, 1978. Materials may be reprinted without permission. Agricultural Outlook is published monthly, except January. Annual subscription: \$17.00 U.S., \$21.25 foreign. A 25-percent discount is offered on orders of 100 copies or more to one address. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Make check payable to Superintendent of Documents. Annual subscription in microfiche: North American Continent addresses \$25.75 first order, \$21 for each additional to one address; other foreign addresses \$45 each subscription. Order from National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA 22161. Refer to publication code NTISUB/C/151 and make check payable to NTIS.

Address change: Please cut or peel off the mailing label from your most recent issue and mail it along with your new address to: Mailing Unit, Office of Operations, Room 1554 South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Allow 6 weeks for processing.



Planting Intentions Point to Another Year of Big Crops

January's prospective plantings report suggests that we could be heading for another year of big crops if weather conditions permit good yields and these intentions are realized. Although total acreage may decline about 2 percent from 1977, most of the drop is in wheat and cotton. Soybean acreage may be up 8 percent (much more than was anticipated in light of the prospective stock buildup this marketing year). Virtually no change was reported for total feed grain acreage.

With recent widespread improvements in moisture conditions in the United States and generally good conditions abroad, prospective plantings would suggest U.S. crops of corn and soybeans could exceed likely utilization during 1978/79. If the wheat crop were reduced about in line with plantings, production may run a little below utilization.

Of course, a number of factors could change actual plantings from January intentions. The key consideration will be producers' perceptions of what crop and livestock prices will be at harvesttime. In addition, there is the variability of weather and input supplies and prices, new details on changes in support programs, and the status of the farmers' strike movement. These factors make the January planting intentions even more tentative than usual this year.

Below are some of the highlights of the Prospective Plantings report:

—Corn plantings down 2 percent, oats off 1 percent, sorghum up 3 percent, and barley unchanged—adding up to a total feed grain acreage virtually the same as last year.

—Soybeans up 8 percent to about 64 million acres. This acreage increase seems likely to come at the expense of cotton, corn, and soft wheat.

Price relationships favored soybeans in most areas of the country just prior to reporting of the January 1 intentions. As a

result, most States reported larger soybean acreage. Corn-soybean price relationships favored soybeans in the Corn Belt and farmers in that area plan to plant 2 million more acres to soybeans while cutting corn acreage slightly. Soybeans are usually corn's chief competitor in the Corn Belt area.

Also, the soybean loan rate for 1978 has not been announced yet—and that will undoubtedly have an impact on final plantings.

—Upland cotton acreage down 7 percent to 12.6 million acres. Cotton prices have dropped sharply in the past year and soybeans, sorghum, and rice appear to have a slight competitive advantage in producers' eyes. Cotton prospects look the best in the Far West where cotton continues to have an edge over other crops.

—Total wheat acreage, including winter wheat planted last fall, down about 12 percent to 66 million acres, smallest since 1973.

Farmers apparently are responding to lower wheat prices and the set-aside program, although weather has also been an influence.

(A later assessment of producers' planting intentions will be released on April 13. See the table on Supply and Utilization in the Statistical Indicators section for details on the 1977/78 marketing year.)

Farm prices of major crops have been rising seasonally from the lows of last summer and fall, although prices generally remain below a year earlier. And futures prices indicate little substantial improvement later this year. However, the rapid rise in production costs may be leveling off and the new farm legislation does offer some price protection on the downside for many producers. Grain and cotton producers have been making heavy use of loan programs and wheat deficiency payments have begun pumping additional money into the farm economy.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS OF MAJOR CROPS

Crop	1974	1975	1976	1977	Indicated 1978 ¹	Change 1977-78 ²
	Mil. acres					Pct.
Corn	77.8	78.6	84.4	82.7	80.9	-2.1
Sorghum	17.7	18.1	18.4	17.0	17.5	+3.2
Oats	18.0	16.5	16.7	17.8	17.6	-1.2
Barley	9.0	9.3	9.2	10.6	10.6	-.3
Feed grains	122.4	122.5	128.7	128.1	126.6	-1.2
Durum wheat	4.2	4.8	4.7	3.2	4.2	+31.2
Other spring wheat . .	14.8	14.1	17.8	15.6	13.7	-12.2
Total spring wheat . .	19.0	18.9	22.5	18.8	17.9	-4.8
Winter wheat ³	52.4	55.9	57.7	56.0	48.1	-14.0
Total wheat	71.4	74.8	80.2	74.8	66.0	-11.8
Rye ³	3.2	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.9	+7.8
Rice	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.5	+9.8
Soybeans	53.5	54.6	50.2	59.1	63.9	+8.2
Upland cotton	13.6	9.4	11.6	13.6	12.6	-7.3
Flaxseed	1.8	1.6	1.1	1.5	1.3	-15.6
Sugarbeets ⁴	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	+4.5
Total ⁴	269.7	270.1	278.5	283.4	277.1	-2.2

¹ January 1 planting intentions (except winter wheat and rye) for 34 States adjusted upward to a U.S. total acreage. ² Calculated from unrounded data. ³ Plantings as of December 1 of previous year for crop to be harvested in year listed. ⁴ May not add due to rounding.

PARITY, FARM AND TARGET PRICES OF MAJOR CROPS

Commodity	December 1977		Farm price as % of parity	Target Price	
	Parity price	Farm price		1977	1978
			Pct.		
Corn (\$ per bu.)	3.47	1.98	57	2.00	2.10
Sorghum (\$ per cwt.)	5.80	3.16	54	4.07	(²)
Barley (\$ per bu.)	3.00	1.77	59	2.15	(²)
Wheat (\$ per bu.)	5.05	2.47	49	2.90	³ 3.00
Cotton (\$ per lb.)	.841	.488	58	.478	.520
Soybeans (\$ per bu.)	7.65	5.68	74	—	—

¹ Announced at \$2.28 per bushel (56 lb.) ² Will be set in fair and reasonable relation to corn. ³ Will be \$3.05 if 1978 wheat production is below 1.8 billion bushels.

Farmers React to Cost-Price Squeeze

Farmers' concern over weak commodity prices has received widespread public attention as a result of the farm strike, in its seventh week at the end of January. One of the basic requests of the strikers is 100 percent or full parity for agricultural product prices. For major commodities, December farm prices averaged around 67 percent of parity prices ranging from 49 percent for wheat to 111 percent for oranges. Target prices announced for 1978 crops of wheat, corn and cotton are about 60 percent of December 1977 parity prices. In fact, of the 144 items for which USDA computes parity ratios, all but one were selling below full parity levels.

The parity price concept, which striking farmers are making one of their key issues, is not new to U.S. agriculture. In fact, the whole idea dates back more than 60 years.

Essentially, parity is a relationship between prices farmers receive for their commodities and the prices they pay for production and living expenses. If commodities were at full parity, farmers would have the same purchasing power as during the 1910-14 period.

Serious drawbacks of the parity concept are the fact that it does not measure production costs, nor farm income, nor living standards. Also, as a reference point, its age becomes a problem. Farmers no longer purchase the same items they did six decades ago. And even when the purchased item is the same, its quality and the industrial labor and capital involved in manufacturing may be quite different.

Finally, parity does not take into account the enormous increases in productivity since 1910. For example, an acre averaged 26 bushels of corn in 1910; today it yields 92 bushels on the average.

Stocks Mounting

Grain stocks in the United States reported on January 1 were up substantially from the year before. Wheat stocks totaled almost 2.0 billion bushels, 12 percent above last January 1 and 44 percent more than 2 years ago. Corn stocks totaled almost 5.5 billion bushels, up a tenth, while soybean holdings were up around a fourth.

At the beginning of 1978, farmers retained ownership or marketing control and some degree of pricing influence on more than 60 percent of the grain and soybeans stored in off-farm facilities. Together with on-farm storage, farmers had control over 80 to 90 percent of grain and soybean holdings.

Grain stocks are expected to continue building during the 1977/78 marketing year, reaching around 76 million metric tons by the end of the year. Carryout holdings would then be around a fourth above year-earlier levels, and more than double the levels at the end of 1975/76. Soybean and cotton stocks will also be rising substantially during 1977/78.

U.S. GRAIN AND SOYBEAN STOCKS

Commodity	January 1		
	1976	1977	1978
	Mil. bu.		
Corn	4,467	4,889	5,442
Sorghum	474	493	625
Oats	494	412	563
Barley	274	271	326
Wheat	1,386	1,782	1,991
Soybeans	1,256	1,032	1,308

Wheat Supplies Large; Prices Rally

The 1977/78 wheat marketing year is well past the halfway mark, and record large supplies, the result of three consecutive 2-billion-bushel crops, continue to dominate markets. Domestic disappearance is now expected to reach around 830 million bushels, about a tenth above last year as a result of heavy wheat feeding early in the marketing year. The economic advantage of feeding wheat faded in late summer as feed grain prices fell and wheat prices rose. As a consequence, wheat feeding probably will be much slower through the remainder of the season.

Overseas shipments of wheat, which were sluggish during June-December, have picked up and are expected to be very active in coming months. Total exports are expected to top the billion-bushel level, up from 950 million in 1976/77.

Total 1977/78 wheat utilization is projected at 1.9 billion bushels, up about 14 percent, but still less than the 1977 crop. Therefore, yearend stocks are likely to show a slight buildup in 1977/78, reaching around 1.2 billion bushels by the end of the current marketing year on May 30.

Wheat prices have strengthened moderately since December but only modest changes are expected during the remainder of the season. Heavy participation in the 1977 price support programs has placed nearly 40 percent of wheat stocks under Government loan, in CCC inventory or in the food reserve program. This has reduced the amount of readily marketable wheat and has helped strengthen prices.

However, the large 1976 wheat loans maturing in late February are overhanging the market. If all these holdings are sold on the open market rather than entering the food reserve program, wheat prices could be weakened.

Based on conditions last December 1, the 1978 winter wheat crop is forecast at 1.3 billion bushels, 13 percent below last year. The crop is rated fair to good except for dry conditions in the Southern Plains. *Allen Schienbein, (202) 447-4997*

Feed Grain Stocks Building

The feed grain outlook for the rest of 1977/78 will be highlighted by record large supplies, a stronger demand but a further building of stocks, and prices near loan.

Stocks of feed grains on January 1 totaled 186 million short tons, 14 percent above a year earlier. Domestic feed use is likely to increase around 6 percent because of improved feed-livestock price ratios and

expanding output of livestock and livestock products. World 1977 coarse grain crops were large, but foreign demand growth is holding expected U.S. exports slightly above the heavy 55-million-short-ton volume in each of the past 2 years.

Although disappearance will be record large, it falls short of the bumper U.S. feed grain crop. As a result, a further 10- to 15-million-ton buildup in carryover stocks to some 47 million short tons appears likely by this fall. Consequently, prices received by farmers for 1977 corn probably will range around the \$2 loan rate.

Heavy participation by farmers in the price support program is helping to keep corn prices firm. Prices this summer will largely hinge on prospects for crops here and abroad and the extent that farmers participate in the Grain Reserve Program. *Jack S. Ross, (202) 447-8636*

Soybean Crop A Record

The 1977 soybean crop has been further boosted in recent months and is now reported at a record 1.7 billion bushels, up 33 percent from 1976. Although 1976/77 carryover stocks last September 1 were less than half those the previous year, this large

output increased 1977/78 soybean supplies by nearly a fifth to a record 1.8 billion bushels.

Total utilization is expected to top 1.5 billion bushels, roughly a tenth above last season. Over a half of this total will be processed domestically and about two-fifths exported.

With animal numbers increasing and soybean meal cheaper, domestic demand should increase enough to generate a crush which might about match the record set 2 years ago. Crushings could possibly total about 860 million bushels, up about a tenth from last season's depressed level.

With annual U.S. crushing capacity now estimated at 1.25 billion bushels, this season's crush would be running at about two-thirds of capacity, still below the long-run average of about 80 percent.

Despite growing competition from Malaysian palm oil and Brazilian soybeans, U.S. exports of soybeans and soybean products continue strong. Soybean exports are expected to surpass the 600-million-bushel mark for the first time. Oil and meal exports also are expected to be up. Thus, roughly half of 1977 production of soybeans and products will be absorbed by the world market.

The 1978 Brazilian soybean crop, which is harvested in March and April, will influence our exports in the last half of the current marketing year. Production in that country continues to increase with this year's crop likely to be up about 7 percent from 1977's output of about 12 million tons.

Although palm oil output in Malaysia will be up sharply, so far this year the price relationships with soybean oil and import data suggest that total palm oil imports may be no larger than last season's nearly 700 million pounds. However, competition between palm and soybean oils will continue in other areas of the world which will have an impact on U.S. exports of soy oil.

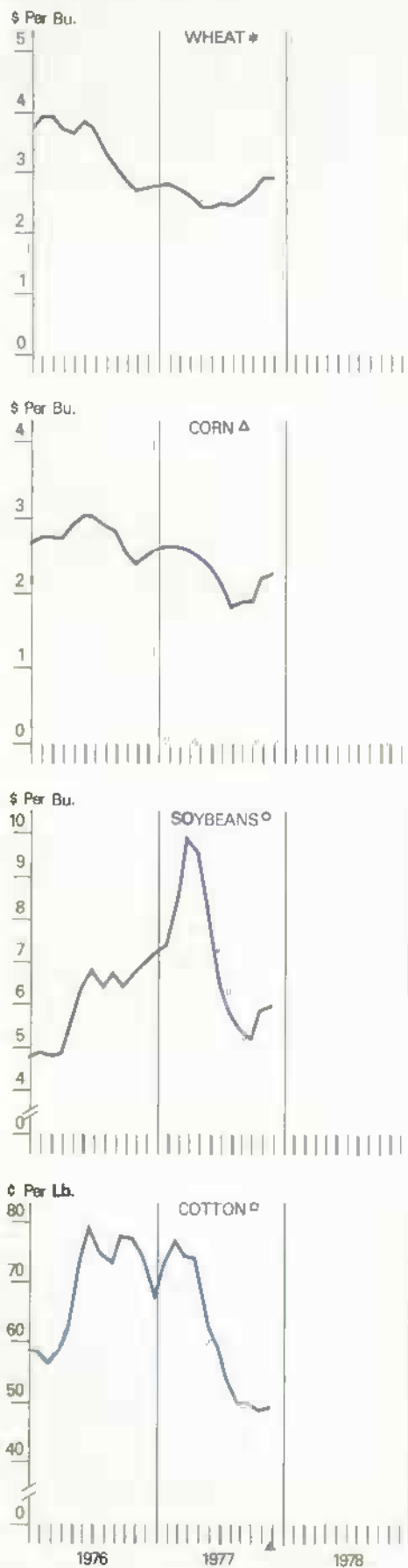
Despite the favorable outlook, use will fall short of production and a sizable build-up in stocks—to around 270 million bushels—is anticipated by season's end. This would be about 2½ times the carryover of last September 1. With large supplies, soybean prices are lower this season. Farm prices may average between \$5 and \$6 per bushel in 1977/78, compared with just under \$7 in the previous season. *Stanley Gazelle, (202) 447-8444*

KEY STATISTICAL INDICATORS OF THE FOOD AND FIBER SECTOR

Item	1975	1976		Annual	1977				Annual	1978	
	Annual	III	IV		I	II	III	IV		I	II
										Forecast	
Prices received by farmers (1967=100)	185	189	177	186	186	189	176	179	183	183	182
Livestock and Products (1967=100)	172	175	165	177	172	174	178	177	175	180	176
Crops (1967=100)	201	206	190	197	204	208	175	182	193	188	189
Prices paid by farmers, all items (1967=100)	180	193	191	191	200	204	202	202	202	209	211
Production items (1967=100) ¹	187	200	197	198	207	211	207	206	208	214	217
Farm production (1967=100)	114	—	—	117	—	—	—	—	121	—	—
Livestock and Products (1967=100)	101	—	—	106	—	—	—	—	108	—	—
Crops (1967=100)	121	—	—	121	—	—	—	—	129	—	—
Market basket ²											
Retail cost (\$)	1,876	1,902	1,875	1,895	1,913	1,932	1,948	1,952	1,937	1,975	1,994
Farm value (\$)	784	748	709	748	742	750	754	756	750	755	738
Spread (\$)	1,092	1,154	1,166	1,147	1,171	1,182	1,194	1,196	1,986	1,220	1,256
Farm share (%)	42	39	38	39	39	39	39	39	39	38	37
Retail prices:											
Food (1967=100)	175.4	182.0	181.5	180.8	186.6	192.1	194.8	195.4	192.2	198	200
At home (1967=100)	175.8	180.6	179.3	179.5	184.8	190.3	192.7	192.8	190.2	195	197
Away-from-home (1967=100)	174.3	187.8	190.1	186.1	193.7	199.1	202.8	205.4	200.3	208	212
Per capita food use (1967=100)	102.1	—	—	105.4	—	—	—	—	104.9	—	—
Animal-Products (1967=100) ³	100.1	104.5	107.5	104.2	102.5	102.3	103.7	106.7	104.3	103.6	103.2
Crop-products (1967=100)	104.6	—	—	106.9	—	—	—	—	105.6	—	—
Agricultural exports (\$ bil.) ⁴	21.9	5.6	5.4	22.8	6.5	6.2	6.3	5.0	24.0	—	—
Agricultural imports (\$ bil.) ⁴	9.5	2.8	2.8	10.5	2.9	3.6	3.9	3.1	13.4	—	—

¹ Including interest, wages, and taxes. ² Quarterly data are given at annual rates. ³ Quarterly data include fish products. ⁴ Annual and quarterly data are based on Oct.-Sept. fiscal years ending with indicated years; quarterly data may not add to annuals due to rounding. Note: Preliminary estimates of 1977 farm income will be available in the March 1978 *Agricultural Outlook* report.

CROP PRICES RISE FROM HARVEST LOWS



* No. 1 Hard Winter, Kansas City. Δ No. 2 Yellow, Chicago. No. 1 Yellow, Chicago. □ Spot Market. 1-1/16" SLM. ▲ Average through January 25.

Cotton Stocks Building; Prices Tumble

The 1977/78 cotton situation continues to be highlighted by sharply larger production, relatively static demand, and increasing stocks.

This season's 37-percent larger crop of 14½ million bales is boosting the supply to about 17½ million, the largest since 1968/69. But with little change in U.S. mill use (estimated at 6.8 million bales) and exports (estimated at 4.7 million), next summer's carryover may total 6 to 6½ million bales, sharply above beginning stocks of 2.9 million, and also the biggest since 1968/69.

This rather abrupt shift from a tight to a more plentiful supply has caused cotton prices to tumble over the past year. Prices for base grade SLM 1-1/16-inch cotton averaged around 52 cents per pound (spot) down from a spring peak of over 75 cents.

This price decline has placed cotton in an improved competitive position with manmade fibers. U.S. mills now are paying about 55 cents per pound for cotton (mill delivered) which is about the same price as polyester staple and slightly below rayon staple. As a result, mill use of cotton has picked up in recent months and should continue stronger during 1978. While world cotton prices have strengthened recently, they remain relatively low, keeping U.S. cotton competitive and improving the outlook for U.S. exports.

These relatively low cotton prices heavily influence the supply-demand outlook for 1978/79. While production is likely to be smaller next season, demand for U.S. cotton could easily exceed 1977/78's estimate of about 11½ million bales. Thus, the tentative 1978/79 outlook points to a better balance between supply and demand.

Prospects for both 1978/79 U.S. mill use and exports are brighter. Competitive prices should help cotton recoup some recent losses to manmade fibers. Cotton consumption could total 7 million bales or more.

On the export front, U.S. shipments are expected to at least match this season's anticipated 4.7 million bales and could total over 5 million. The exact level will depend on foreign developments. With relatively low stocks abroad and perhaps some cutback in foreign production, significantly larger cotton use in major consuming countries could moderately boost overseas demand for U.S. cotton. *Russell Barlowe, (202) 447-8776.*

Woolen Textile Imports Continue Upward; Mill Use Slackens

Imports of woolen apparel textiles were up again in 1977, exceeding domestic mill use for the first time, and accounting for more than half of U.S. apparel wool use. Wool textile imports are likely to continue high this year.

Domestic apparel wool consumption in 1977 is estimated to have totaled 187-192 million pounds, the highest since 1972 and more than 65 percent above the 1974 low. Apparel wool use in this country is made up of imported woolen textiles together with textiles processed by U.S. mills from both imported and domestically produced raw wool.

U.S. mill use of apparel wool in 1978 may approach last year's 95-97 million clean pounds, depending mainly on woolen textile imports and consumer demand. Raw wool imports have expanded sharply in recent years and now account for about 40 percent of U.S. mill use of apparel wool. Australia now accounts for more than 70 percent of these wool imports.

Production of shorn greasy wool in 1978 may total 100-103 million pounds, down from 106 million in 1977, as sheep numbers continue falling. However, on a clean basis, production could equal or exceed slightly the 53 million pounds of last year if scoured wool yields improve.

The National Wool Act has been extended through 1981. Under this program Government payments are made to wool producers when the U.S. average wool price in a given year is below the legislated guaranteed price.

For each year during 1978-81, the guaranteed price will be adjusted based on changes in the Parity Price Index reported by USDA. The guaranteed price for 1977 marketings of greasy shorn wool increased to 99 cents per pound from 1976's 72 cents. With the 1977 average price likely to be about 73-74 cents per pound, growers can expect a payment—to be made in early 1978—equal to about 35 percent of the net proceeds from their 1977 wool sales.

Wool prices are expected to remain firm in 1978. Although economic activity continues slack in most major wool consuming nations, wool stocks in exporting countries are well within manageable levels. Most U.S. commercial producers turned good profits last year. *Albert Evans, (202) 447-8776.*

More Fresh and Processed Vegetables Available

Domestic supplies of 13 major fresh market vegetables this winter should be about a fifth larger than a year earlier if historic yields accompany the 21-percent larger acreage. Increases are expected for most vegetables except cauliflower and lettuce. However, comparisons with year-earlier levels may be misleading because 1977 winter acreage of some crops was drastically reduced as a result of the freeze in Florida during January 1977.

So far this season, some minor frost damage has hit tender vegetable crops—particularly tomatoes and peppers—grown in southern districts of Florida. Supplies will likely be shortened later, but not like last year. Also, recent heavy rains in California briefly disrupted harvest of lettuce, celery, and carrots, bringing in record-high prices for lettuce.

Imports of tender vegetables (tomatoes being the most important) from Mexico so far this season have been well ahead of a year earlier, even though the largest volume of shipments doesn't start until late January. Mexican acreage of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and eggplant was expanded this year.

Combined pack of canned and frozen vegetables in 1977 was substantially larger than a year earlier and came close to the 1975 record. As a result, total supplies of processed vegetables are moderately larger, despite a smaller carryover of most items.

Supplies of tomatoes, tomato products, and corn are generous; peas, lima beans, beets, and sauerkraut are adequate; and

canned snap beans are relatively light. Frozen vegetable stocks have picked up, and by January 1, stocks were 13 percent above a year ago.

Prices of processed vegetables through the first half of 1978 will probably show little change from current levels, as prices for most items have already adjusted to market conditions. Tomato prices will remain relatively low until the heavy stocks are worked off the last half of this year. Canned corn, canned peas, and frozen broccoli are selling at bargain prices, but green bean and beet prices are firm to strong.

At this time, water supplies in California and other Western States have improved substantially, which suggests lack of water won't curtail vegetable acreage in 1978. However, lower market prices will likely reduce plantings of processing vegetables.

Large Crop Depresses Eastern Potato Prices

Although last fall's potato crop was 1 percent below the year-earlier record, the crop was still large enough to depress prices, especially for eastern and midwestern growers. The export market to Europe is significantly smaller this season, and domestic demand for dehydrated products has been sluggish. Demand for frozen potato products has been brisk, but it influences grower prices only indirectly. As a result, fourth quarter potato prices received by growers for all uses were only \$3.17 per cwt. versus \$3.12 for the same period of 1976—but down materially from \$3.80 in October-December 1975.

Potato stocks on January 1 totaled 176 million cwt., the largest on record for that date. Consequently, grower prices are not expected to improve much the rest of the storage season. Prices in the East likely will continue below a year earlier. However, in the West—where January stocks were 7 percent below a year-earlier—grower prices may remain a little better than last year. *Charles Porter and Joseph Podany, (202) 447-8666*

Orange Crop Below Last Year; Juice Prices Strong

The 1977/78 U.S. orange crop is currently forecast at 221 million boxes, 9 percent below last year, with Florida's crop off some 11 percent from a year ago. However, the production of frozen concentrated

orange juice (FCOJ) is expected to be moderately above last year's output.

Stocks of FCOJ closed out the 1976/77 season (December-November) at a relatively small 26 million gallons, only about half of a year earlier. Production of FCOJ from the current crop so far has been running 18 percent above a year ago, and the heaviest packing is yet to come. The current juice yield is 1.28 gallons per box of oranges, compared with the freeze-reduced yield of only 1.07 gallons last year. The freezing weather on January 15 caused only slight damage to the northernmost citrus producing areas, and juice yields will not be cut appreciably.

Despite the prospective larger FCOJ output, supplies will likely continue fairly tight. If movement of FCOJ continues in the current 3 to 4 million gallons per week range, carryout stocks in 1977/78 should rise slightly to about 35-40 million gallons, although that would still be a relatively low level in relation to demand.

Wholesale FCOJ prices in mid-January were quoted at \$3.30 to \$3.35 per dozen 6-ounce cans (unadvertised brands), up from \$1.80 a year earlier, but that was before the freeze had boosted prices last year. Following last year's freeze, prices rose to the \$2.60 range and have been trending upward ever since. Prices will likely remain strong through the 1977/78 season. *Jules Powell, (202) 447-7133*

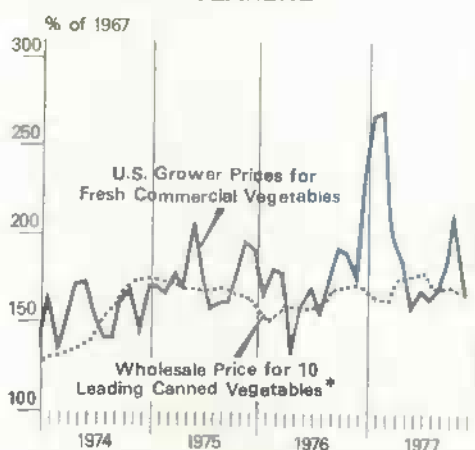
Tobacco Production and Use Stable; Prices Reach Record Levels

Total tobacco use in the marketing year ending June 30, 1978, will about equal the 1.9 billion pounds produced in 1977, although the total crop was about 10 percent below 1976's output.

Domestic use will likely take 1.25 billion pounds in 1977/78 as larger cigarette and smokeless use (chewing tobacco and snuff) offset declines in cigars and smoking tobacco. A new drive against cigarette smoking, begun by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare this January, will require legislation to become fully effective.

Unmanufactured tobacco exports will likely total 650 million pounds, about the same as in 1976/77. Higher export prices and foreign trade restrictions are expected to limit purchases to year-earlier levels, despite the rising popularity of American blended cigarettes abroad.

FRESH VEGETABLE PRICES VOLATILE AT YEAREND

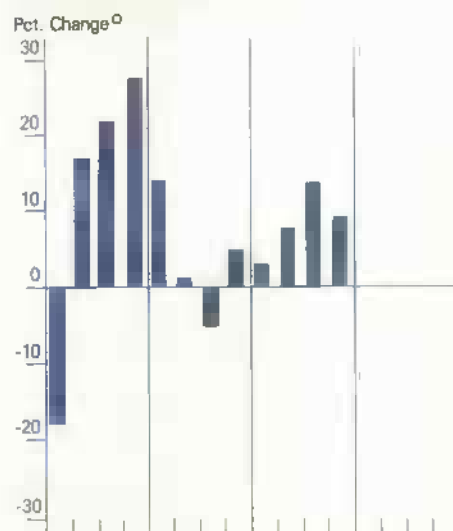


* Index developed by ERS for snap beans, corn, peas, tomatoes, tomato juice, tomato catsup, beets, carrots, sauerkraut, and spinach.

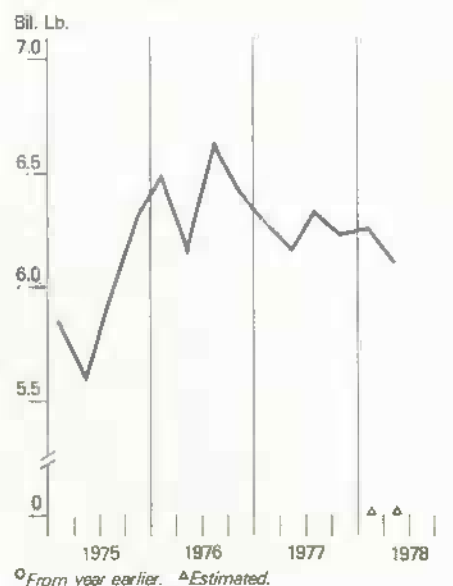
IMPROVED STEER-CORN PRICE RELATIONSHIPS



... ENCOURAGING GAINS IN FEEDLOT PLACEMENTS



... BUT REDUCED NONFED SLAUGHTER WILL CUT 1978 BEEF OUTPUT



With most of the 1977 crop sold, prices to growers have averaged a record \$1.19 per pound, up around 6 percent from a year earlier. Higher support prices, along with lower supplies from reduced marketing quotas, contributed to the price boost.

Support prices are likely to rise 6 to 7 percent for the 1978 crop. Stable production is forecast as national marketing quotas for the flue cured crop (58 percent of 1977 output) remain the same. USDA will announce the burley quota by February 1. The burley crop quota (33 percent of 1977 output) is likely to remain the same or be cut; the maximum cut allowed by law is 5 percent. *Richard Hall, (202) 447-7290*

Output of Livestock and Products on the Rise

Improved livestock and livestock product-feed price relationships caused mainly by cheaper feed prices are encouraging livestock and poultry producers to expand output. Producers are stepping up cattle placements in feedlots, having more sows farrow, increasing broiler chick placements, expanding layer numbers and feeding more grain and concentrates to dairy cows.

Production of livestock and products is likely to be up 2 to 3 percent from a year ago in the first half of 1978 with most items registering gains. Total beef production may be down about 1 percent as larger fed cattle slaughter is more than offset by reduced marketings of nonfed cattle and of cows.

Prices of most livestock and products are running above a year ago early in 1978, except for eggs. Overall prices in the first quarter may average around 5 percent above a year ago, although livestock and product prices are expected to turn down seasonally this spring to levels near a year earlier.

Red Meat Supplies Up In 1978

Current prospects point to large red meat supplies again in 1978. However, the production mix is expected to be different than last year with less beef and more pork.

Abundant grain and soybean supplies with resulting lower feed prices prompted cattle feeders to substantially increase the number of cattle placed on feed during the latter part of 1977. Net placements of cattle on feed in the 23 major cattle feeding States during the fourth quarter of 1977 were up 9 percent from a year ago. With a 7-percent increase in marketings during the fall, the

number of cattle on feed on January 1 this year was 7 percent higher. Year-to-year increases in the number placed on feed are expected to continue into 1978. Thus, fed cattle slaughter is expected to be up in 1978, perhaps by 4 to 6 percent. Slaughter of non-fed steers and heifers together with cows, however, are expected to decline and more than offset increases in fed cattle marketings. As a result, less beef will probably be produced in 1978.

Fed cattle prices are expected to remain under pressure from large fed cattle marketings. Prices are likely to decline a little from their late January level of \$43 to \$44 per cwt. (Choice steers at Omaha) in late winter or early spring as fed cattle marketings rise. However, as declines in beef output accelerate in the last half of 1978, higher fed cattle prices are anticipated.

Lower grain prices and relatively favorable hog prices have provided the impetus for a substantial increase in pork production in 1978. Hog producers have been increasing the number of sows farrowing, and a further rise of 9 percent is intended for the December 1977-May 1978 period.

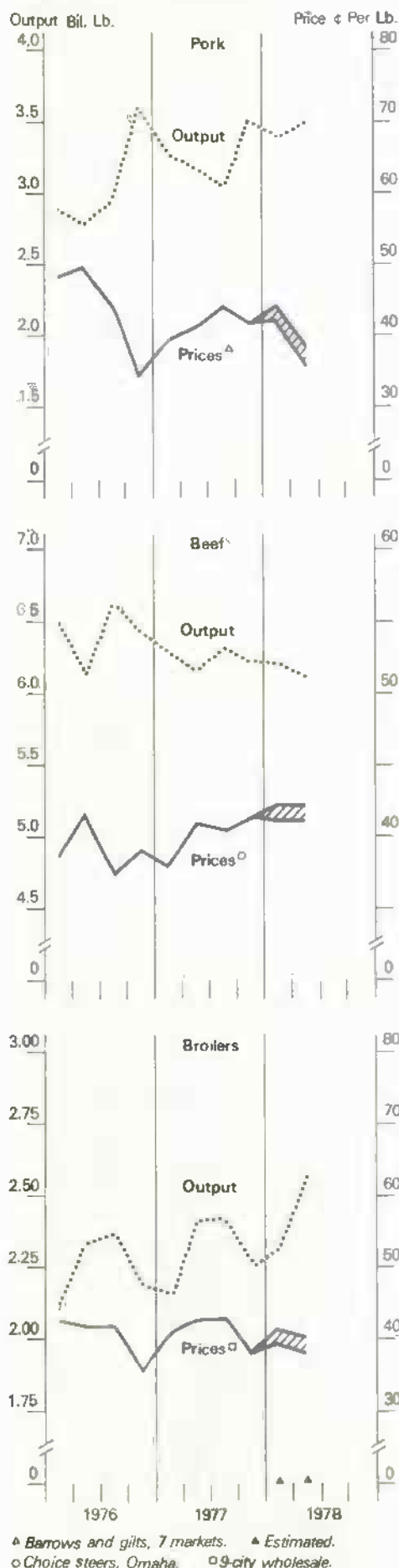
Pork production for 1978 could be up a tenth from last year with the largest increases occurring during the last half of the year. These large pork supplies would put downward pressure on hog prices. Barrow and gilt prices are expected to drop sharply from their late January 1978 level of \$47 to \$48 per cwt. Prices of barrows and gilts at 7 markets are expected to average in the mid-\$30 range for 1978.

In the aggregate, retail prices of red meats in 1978 probably will be a little above those for 1977. Retail prices for Choice grade beef are expected to rise 4 to 6 percent above the 1977 level. On the other hand, retail pork prices could be down slightly, perhaps 2 to 4 percent. *James Nix, (202) 447-8143*

More Poultry and Eggs On the Way

Egg production last year totaled about the same as in 1976. However, after lagging a year earlier during most of the first three quarters, output picked up sharply in October-December. Production during January-June 1978 is expected to exceed year-earlier levels by 2 to 3 percent—resulting from a larger laying flock and increased output per hen. Gains in egg production early this year will cause egg prices to decline and put producers in a severe cost-price squeeze. Producers will respond by slowly reducing flock numbers and output

MEAT SUPPLIES WILL CONTINUE LARGE.



could slip below year-earlier levels by late 1978.

Egg prices were relatively weak during much of 1977, even though egg production was below 1976, until late in the year. The price of carton Grade A large eggs delivered to volume buyers at New York averaged about 63 cents in 1977, down 7 cents from 1976.

With the prospective increase in production, egg prices in January-March are expected to average in the mid-50-cents a dozen range. Prices will decline seasonally this spring and may average 5 to 10 cents below the 58 cents a dozen of April-June 1977. Prices probably will remain weak next summer and fall unless producers reduce flock numbers substantially.

Broiler production in 1977 totaled around 9.2 billion pounds (ready-to-cook weight), up 3 percent from 1976's record output. Output would have been even larger except for the extreme cold last winter and the abnormally hot weather last summer.

Relatively favorable profits during the second half of 1977 and producers' expectations of lower feed prices during much of 1978 will result in continued expansion of broiler production this year. Chick placements and egg sets indicate that the first quarter marketings will be up around 7 percent. Broiler prices have recently been stronger than earlier expected, prompting broiler producers to continue producing near capacity. However, the rate of gain over 1977 will probably slow after mid-year.

Wholesale broiler prices in nine cities averaged 40.8 cents a pound in 1977, compared with 40.2 cents for 1976. Prices moved above 1976 levels in the spring and remained higher during the balance of 1977 despite large supplies of both red meats and broilers. Broiler prices in 1978 are expected to average below a year earlier. Prices will be supported by smaller beef supplies and consumer income gains, but increased broiler and pork supplies are expected to be more than offsetting. First half 1978 wholesale broiler prices will likely remain relatively flat and average in the upper-30-cents-a-pound range, down from 42 cents a year earlier. Prices may show only limited seasonal strength during the summer before declining seasonally during October-December.

Turkey production in 1977 was down around 2 percent from the record 2.1 billion pounds produced in 1976. However, turkey producers' profit margins improved substantially in late 1977 and they are expected to respond by increasing the 1978 turkey crop. Turkey poults hatched during September-November—largely for early 1978

marketing—were up 2 percent, but turkey eggs in incubators on December 1 were 11 percent above a year earlier. Turkey production is expected to be about 5 percent above a year earlier in January-March and about 10 percent greater in April-June. Producers are expected to slow their rate of increase in the second half because of prospects for sharply higher pork output.

Turkey prices strengthened sharply in the second half of 1977 as production lagged. Wholesale prices for young hen turkeys in New York in 1977 averaged 54 cents a pound, 5 cents above 1976. Prices increased from around 50 cents a pound in early 1977 to 66 cents by year's end. Turkey prices have eased and will likely average in the mid-50's in the first half of 1978, compared with 51 cents in January-June 1977. If second half output increases as expected, prices will drop well below a year earlier during the main marketing season. *William Cathcart and Gerald Rector, (202) 447-8801*

Dairy Sales Stronger But Surplus Not Likely To Ease

Commercial use of most manufactured dairy products strengthened during late summer and fall. Generally favorable prospects for retail dairy prices and consumer purchasing power indicate that sales of dairy products could continue to improve in 1978.

The year-to-year increase in retail prices of milk and dairy products in 1978 probably will be relatively small for the second straight year. This relative price stability likely will aid dairy sales, and cheese use may well be helped by further gains in consumer income. Increases from a year earlier in total commercial use may be more pronounced during the first quarter of 1978 since sales were weak early last year.

However, the expected pickup in use of dairy products may not substantially ease the heavy surplus situation. The generally favorable expected conditions for milk production probably will result in milk output 1 to 2 percent above 1977's 123 billion pounds. As a result, USDA purchases under the price support program may remain heavy in 1978—similar to last year's 6 billion pounds milk equivalent. *James Miller, (202) 447-8915*

Raw Sugar Prices To Move Higher in 1978

With support provisions of the 1977 Food and Agriculture Act now in effect, prices of wholesale refined sugar and retail sugar prices may average slightly higher in 1978 than last year.

The objective of the new International Sugar Agreement (ISA) is to maintain world prices within a range of 11 to 21 cents per pound. Export quotas to be enforced in 1978 will seek to reduce export sugar availabilities enough to raise world prices to the minimum level which would assure a minimum U.S. price of \$13.50 per cwt. (New York Spot equivalent).

Output of U.S.-grown cane and beet sugar in 1978/79 is not expected to change greatly from the 1977/78 level of nearly 6 million short tons (raw value). The 1977/78 sugar-beet crop is expected to produce about 3.3 million tons of beet sugar (raw value), down from the nearly 3.9 million tons a year earlier. Similarly, the 1977/78 domestic sugarcane crop (less production of seed cane) is expected to produce about 2.65 million tons of cane sugar (raw value), down slightly from last year.

From a record-high beginning level of about 5 million tons, domestic sugar stocks are now expected to decline sharply—perhaps about 1.7 million tons—during 1978. The stock drawdown is expected to reduce U.S. imports of sugar by roughly half from the record 6.4 million tons in 1977.

Calendar 1977 domestic deliveries are expected to total 11.2 million short tons (including Hawaii), compared with 10.9 million tons in 1976. In 1978, U.S. sugar deliveries will probably range from 10.8 to 11.2 million short tons (raw value). With a slight decrease in total consumption likely and a rising population, U.S. per capita refined sugar consumption this year is expected to decline over a pound from the 96-pounds of 1977.

The U.S. wet milling grind is expected to total 400 million bushels of corn in calendar 1978, up 7 percent from 1977. Dextrose shipments for food use are not likely to change much from the 550,000 short tons (dry basis) estimated for 1977. Similarly, conventional corn sirup shipments for food use in calendar 1978 will likely total nearly 2 million tons (dry basis)—a slight increase from the previous year. In contrast, high fructose corn sirup shipments are expected to show substantial growth in 1978, with production totaling about 1.25 million tons (dry basis), up from about a million tons in 1977. *Fred Gray, (202) 447-7290*

Trend to Fewer, Larger Farms Continues

As the number of operating farms continues its steady decline, those remaining have become larger and are producing more food, feed, and fiber.

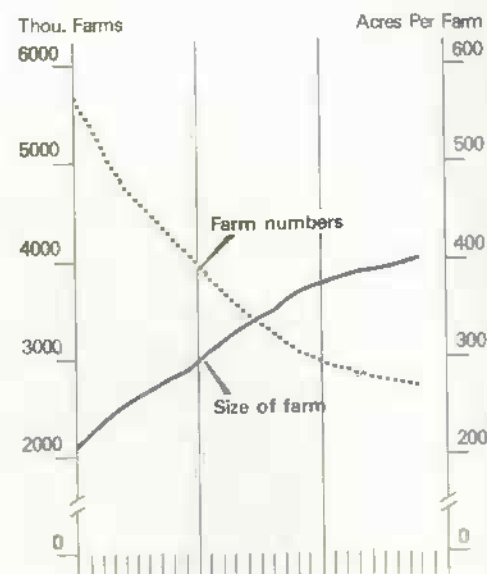
The 2.7 million farms and ranches estimated in operation for 1978 are down about 1 percent from last year. Although the rate of decline has been slowing in recent years, farm numbers are down around half from 1950 when nearly 5.6 million farms were in business. During the 1950's and 1960's, farm numbers declined an average of about 3 percent a year; however, in the 1970's there has been only a 1-percent annual drop.

Over the years, the amount of land in farms has also trended downward, but at a lesser pace—about a tenth since 1950. This represents a decline in farmland of around 4½ million acres per year. In 1978, an estimated 1,072 million acres are in farms. Yet the average size of U.S. farms has risen over 90 percent from around 210 acres in 1950 to an estimated 400 acres this year. Not only have the smaller farms been going out of business, but those farms remaining have increased the size of their operations.

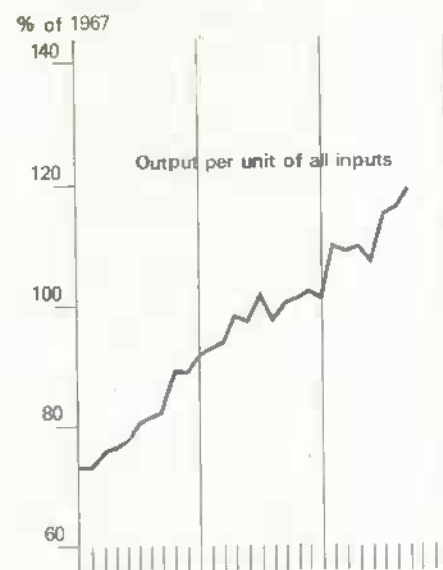
Despite the decline in farm numbers, total U.S. farm output has expanded by around 64 percent since 1950 as a result of a sharply larger capital investment in the agricultural sector. Farmers are producing 40 percent more livestock and livestock products and crop production has risen 70 percent. Farmers have increasingly substituted capital inputs for labor. Greater use of farm machinery, fertilizer, and pesticides—along with improved feeding and breeding—boosted agricultural productivity by almost two-thirds during the 1950-77 period. But this increased productivity required sharply larger capital investment in the agricultural sector.

In 1977, assets used in producing farm goods were valued at \$564 billion, a sixfold rise since 1950. During this same period, average production assets per farm increased from \$17,000 to almost \$205,000. Increases in farm real estate values accounted for the bulk of these gains.

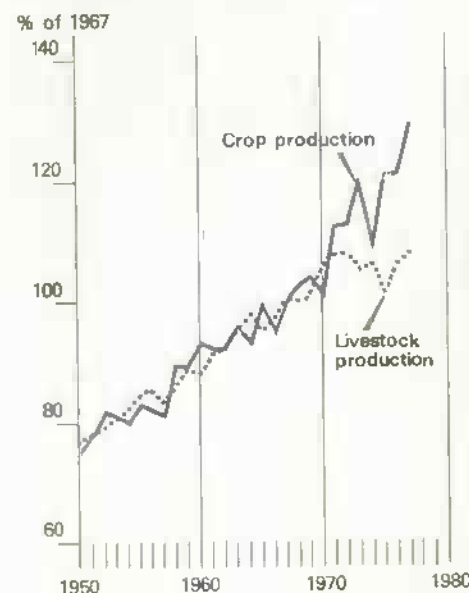
Texas continues as the State with the most farms—197,000 this year. Next come Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, and North Carolina. The average farm size ranges from almost 6,200 acres in Arizona to 92 acres in Rhode Island. Farms in Nevada, Wyoming, and New Mexico average over 3,500 acres.



AND INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY...



... BOOST AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT





Food and Marketing

Grocery prices are rising this winter after holding steady through most of last year's second half. Recent increases in farm product prices and in marketing charges are expected to push retail food prices moderately higher, at least through the first half of 1978. Increases of 1 or 2 percent each quarter appear likely, barring major weather problems or supply disruptions. This would be roughly half the rate of increase during the first half of 1977 when coffee prices soared and severe winter weather played havoc with Florida's vegetable and citrus crops.

This year's first half food price advance, although likely to be smaller than a year earlier, may be spread over more items. Prices for most cereal and bakery products, sugar and confectionery items, processed fruits and vegetables, and dairy products are likely to rise over the entire period.

Fresh produce prices are also expected to rise seasonally through the winter and spring with some items sharply higher. But average prices for fresh produce are likely to remain below last year's peaks in the absence of severe weather problems in major growing areas.

Meat prices, which have been rising this winter, are expected to level off by spring with lower pork prices offsetting further advances for beef. Poultry and egg prices are likely to remain generally weak in the face of increased output.

Coffee prices are expected to continue their slow descent, about offsetting further expected increases for fishery products and other imported foods.

Food price increases beyond midyear are expected to be quite small if weather conditions are generally favorable for 1978 crops, if output of livestock and products continues to expand as currently indicated, and if domestic economic conditions maintain their present momentum. Under these conditions, retail food prices for all of 1978 likely will average 4 to 6 percent above last year.

With only a small increase in the average farm value of domestically produced foods anticipated, most of the 1978 food price rise will result from higher marketing charges. These marketing charges, in turn, will reflect rising wage rates as well as higher prices for most inputs used by firms in getting food from the farmer to the consumer.

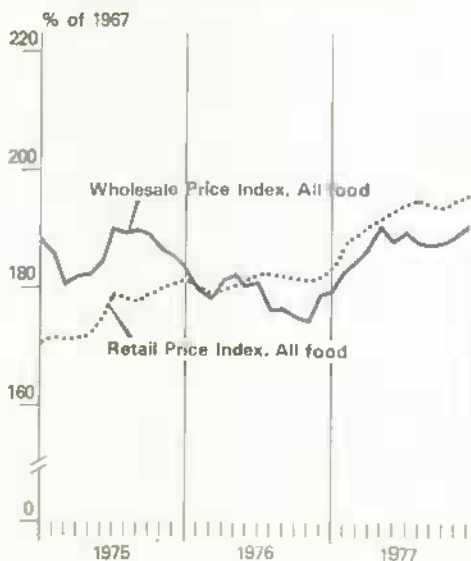
Average prices for coffee and other imported foods, which contributed heavily to last year's higher grocery costs, are expected to contribute little to the increase in 1978.

Recap of 1977 Food Prices

After holding about steady through all of 1976, retail food prices began to climb early in 1977. Through July they had risen at an average rate of a little more than 1 percent a month. Food prices were much more stable during the last half of the year with small declines during the late summer nearly offset by increases in the closing months of the year.

For all of 1977, food prices averaged 6.2 percent above a year earlier. Grocery store food prices averaged 6.0 percent higher with away-from-home food prices up 7.6 percent.

FOOD PRICES TURN UP AGAIN



MARKET BASKET OF FARM FOODS¹

Period	Retail cost	Farm value	Farm-retail spread	Farmers' share
			1967=100	Percent
1966 ...	101.1	106.3	97.8	41
1967 ...	100.0	100.0	100.0	39
1968 ...	103.6	105.3	102.5	39
1969 ...	109.1	114.8	105.5	41
1970 ...	113.7	114.0	113.5	39
1971 ...	115.7	114.4	116.6	38
1972 ...	121.3	125.0	119.0	40
1973 ...	142.3	167.2	126.5	46
1974 ...	161.9	178.3	151.5	43
1975 ...	173.6	187.2	165.0	42
1976 ² ...	175.4	178.4	173.5	39
1977 ² ...	179.2	179.1	179.3	39
1975				
I ...	168.8	173.2	166.1	40
II ...	170.1	182.9	161.9	42
III ...	177.6	200.0	163.4	44
IV ...	177.9	192.3	168.8	42
1976 ²				
I ...	176.7	183.3	172.6	40
II ...	175.3	182.6	170.8	40
III ...	176.0	178.6	174.4	39
IV ...	173.5	169.1	176.3	38
1977 ²				
I ...	177.1	177.0	177.1	39
II ...	178.8	179.0	178.7	39
III ...	180.3	180.0	180.5	39
IV ...	180.6	180.3	180.8	39

¹ Represents all food originating on U.S. farms sold in retail food stores. The retail cost is a component of the Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The farm value is the payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of food products less allowance for byproducts. The farm-retail spread is the difference between retail cost and farm value. ² Preliminary.

Practically all of the rise in food prices in 1977 resulted from forces external to U.S. farms—either from higher prices for fish and imported foods or from costs incurred after the food left the farm. Two-thirds of the 6-percent average year-to-year increase in grocery store food prices resulted from sharp increases in prices for fishery products and imported foods, especially coffee. The other third came from wider marketing spreads which represent charges incurred by marketing firms in moving foods from the farm to consumers including assembling, processing, transporting, and distribution.

Retail prices for domestically produced farm foods were up 2.2 percent last year. Practically all of this rise was due to a 3.3-percent increase in marketing spreads with only a small fraction due to the slight rise in the farm value average.

Returns to farmers for foods from U.S. farms, although highly variable during the year, averaged just slightly higher (0.4 percent) in 1977 than in 1976. Sharply higher

farm values for fresh vegetables (early in the year) and fresh fruits and oilseed products, and moderately higher returns for poultry were partially offset by much lower farm values for wheat, eggs, and sugar.

Farm-retail spreads increased for most products in the farm food market basket, except for meat products, poultry, and oilseed products which were down. Above-average increases were logged for dairy products, eggs, bakery and cereal products, processed fruits and vegetables, and especially fresh fruits and vegetables. The 3.3-percent rise in marketing spreads last year compared with increases of about 5 percent in 1976 and 9 percent in 1975.

At yearend, retail prices for domestically produced farm foods averaged 5.1 percent above December 1976. Prices were sharply higher for practically all products, except eggs which averaged almost a fourth lower than a year earlier.

In December 1977, returns to farmers for the market basket were up 6.4 percent from a year earlier despite sharp drops for eggs and fresh vegetables. Increases in farm values were notable for beef cattle, hogs, milk, wheat and other farm ingredients in bakery and cereal products, fresh fruits, and oilseeds.

The farm-retail spread averaged 4.3 percent wider in December than a year earlier. Spreads for most foods in the market basket averaged higher, except for slightly lower spreads for meats and oilseed products. *Henry Badger, (202) 447-8454 and Larry Summers, (202) 447-8707*

February Situation Report Schedule . . .

Situation reports which will be released by USDA's World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board this month are:

Title	Off Press
Vegetable	Feb. 6
Fats & Oils	Feb. 8
Sugar & Sweetener	Feb. 10
Livestock & Meat	Feb. 14
Wheat	Feb. 15
Export Outlook	Feb. 16
Feed	Feb. 21
Cotton & Wool	Feb. 28

Single copies of the above reports may be obtained by writing to: ESCS Publications, Room 0054 South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

WHITE BREAD: RETAIL PRICE, MARKETING MARGINS, AND FARM VALUE

Year	Retail price, one pound loaf	Farm value			Farm-retail spread	Farmer's share	
		Wheat ¹	Other ingredients ²	All ingredients		Wheat	All ingredients
		Cents				Percent	
1970	24.2	2.6	0.8	3.4	20.8	11	14
1971	24.8	2.6	.9	3.5	21.3	10	14
1972	24.7	2.9	.9	3.8	20.9	12	15
1973	27.6	4.1	1.4	5.5	22.1	15	20
1974	34.5	5.4	2.5	7.9	26.6	16	23
1975	36.0	4.5	2.3	6.8	29.2	12	19
1976	35.3	3.8	1.8	5.6	29.6	11	16
1977	35.5	2.6	1.9	4.5	31.0	7	13

¹ Payment to farmers for wheat (0.867 lb.) needed to produce flour for 1-lb. loaf of white bread. Based on average farm prices for hard winter and spring wheat in 10 States leading in production of these wheats.

² Payment to farmers for other-than-wheat ingredients going into 1-lb. loaf of bread, such as nonfat dry milk, shortening, and sugar.

Bread Prices Fail To Reflect Sharp Drop in Wheat Prices

Retail prices for bread held at around 35½ cents per 1-pound loaf throughout 1977 despite sharp drops in farm prices of wheat. The farm value of the quantity of wheat going into a 1-pound loaf of bread averaged 2.6 cents last year—about 1 cent lower than in 1976 and 2 cents below 1975. Last year the farmer's share for wheat in bread dropped to around 7 percent of the retail bread price—the lowest share since 1932.

During 1977, the farm value of wheat in bread varied greatly. It bottomed out at 2.2 cents in June when the farm price of wheat dropped to around \$2.00 per bushel (weighted average farm price for hard winter and spring wheat in the 10 leading producing States). By yearend the farm value was up to 2.8 cents as wheat prices increased to \$2.40 per bushel. A record farm value of 6.9 cents was reached in February 1974, reflecting the worldwide wheat shortage and high wheat prices.

Farm values for ingredients in bread other than wheat—vegetable shortening, lard, nonfat dry milk, and sugar—have not dropped nearly as much as wheat, and in recent years have tended to account for a larger portion of the farm value for all ingredients going into a loaf of bread.

The farm value for other farm ingredients averaged 1.9 cents last year—42 percent of the total 4.5-cent farm value—and more than double levels of the early 1970's. In sharp contrast, the farm value for wheat averaged the same as in the early 1970's.

Since 1970, the price of white pan bread has risen about 11 cents per 1-pound loaf. A tenth of the rise resulted from higher farm

values for ingredients other than wheat. The other 90 percent resulted from increased farm-to-retail price spreads, reflecting widening margins for flour milling and the baking and distribution of bread.

Margins for the flour miller and the baker-wholesaler almost doubled, accounting for practically all of the increase in the farm-to-retail spread. Increased baker-wholesaler and miller spreads reflect improved profitability as well as higher wage rates and higher costs including energy and other nonfarm inputs. During this same period, the retail margin for bread declined. *Henry Badger, (202) 447-8454*

World Tea Crop To Reach New Record

Domestic per capita tea consumption likely totaled about 0.9 pound (dry leaf basis) in calendar 1977, up nearly 10 percent from 1976. With retail coffee prices likely to remain relatively high (though slowly declining), U.S. tea consumption in calendar 1978 is expected to remain near the current level, possibly increasing slightly.

The 1977/78 world tea crop is now expected to reach a new record of 1.41 million metric tons (dry leaf basis), up 9 percent from the previous year. However, this increase is not expected to be sufficient to lower prices. A further significant increase in the U.S. average retail price from the December 1977 level of \$1.22 per 48-bag package may be anticipated in calendar 1978. The December price was up 27 cents a package from January 1977 and was only 6 cents higher than in January 1976. Thus, tea prices rose more rapidly last year than in 1976.

Tea prices have risen in response to increased buying, particularly in the United

States. U.S. imports for the first 11 months of 1977 totaled about 87,000 metric tons, up nearly a fifth from a year earlier, although tea imports in September, October, and November were lagging year-earlier rates. For all of 1977, tea imports are estimated at a record high of about 92,000 metric tons, up sharply from the previous high of about 82,000 metric tons in 1976. *Fred Gray, (202) 447-7290*

New Consumer Price Indexes To Be Published

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will begin publishing this month two new consumer price indexes that will reduce the effect of price movements for food and alcoholic beverages in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

One index will deal with the prices paid by wage earners and clerical workers for a market basket of goods and services. This is the same group for which the CPI has traditionally measured price change and includes roughly a third of the U.S. population.

The second index will measure price change for the entire urban population, including all those living in Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas—in all, about 80 percent of the total U.S. population. For the first half of 1978, the BLS will also publish the present CPI.

The market basket for the two new price indexes will be based on average purchases

of goods and services by each of the populations in 1972-73, as determined by the Consumer Expenditure Survey of the BLS.

Since the mix of goods and services purchased by wage earners and clerical workers changed significantly between 1960-61—the basis for the present index—and 1972-73, the importance of food and other items will change significantly. Similarly, since the market basket of goods purchased by all urban households differs from that of wage earners and clerical workers, the weights in the two new indexes will be quite different.

Based on information released by the BLS, ESCS has estimated the importance of food and alcoholic beverages in the existing and new consumer price indexes for late 1977. These figures, although approximations, give an idea of the changes that will take place.

Both food and alcoholic beverages will be significantly less important in the new indexes than in the present index. Food will decline from about 24 percent to 19 percent in the new wage earner-clerical worker index and to less than 18 percent in the all-urban index. At the same time, food-away-from-home will increase in both the new indexes and food-at-home will decrease markedly. It appears that alcoholic beverages will also decline in importance.

This will mean that the new indexes will behave somewhat differently than the one now in use. With food-away-from-home carrying a larger weight than in the present index, all-food prices will tend to rise more rapidly than in the present index, and the urban index will rise more rapidly than the wage earner and clerical worker index. Away-from-home food prices generally advance faster than food-at-home prices because of the rising cost of services provided by restaurants and other eating places.

At the same time, the overall CPI will be less affected by food-at-home prices than the present index and, thus, will be less sensitive to food price changes.

Another change in BLS procedures will lengthen the period during which food prices are collected in retail stores—from 3 days in the first full week of the month to all month long. *Alden Manchester, (202) 447-8116*

IMPORTANCE OF FOOD IN NEW AND PRESENT CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES*

Item	Present index	New indexes	
	Wage earners and clerical workers	Wage earners and clerical workers	All urban
	Percent		
All food	24.0	19.2	17.6
Food at home	18.8	13.7	11.8
Food away-from-home	5.2	5.5	5.8
Alcoholic beverages	2.1	1.2	1.2
Food and alcoholic beverages	26.1	20.4	18.8

*Approximated for food and alcoholic beverages in August 1977.



The U.S. and World Economies

The outlook for the U.S. economy in 1978 is for continued growth in output, with the Gross National Product (GNP) adjusted for inflation increasing in the range of 4 to 4½ percent.

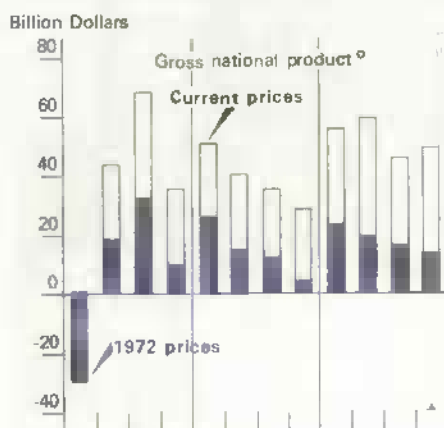
Real final sales (GNP less change in business inventories) were strong in the fourth quarter and are expected to continue brisk at least through this year's first half. Year-end 1977 inventories were in good balance with sales, so further growth in final sales should be quickly and fully matched by growth of total production and employment. The unemployment rate is expected to drop to near 6 percent by the end of 1978.

Government expenditures should be the strongest sector during this year's first half, largely the result of the federal job creation programs enacted last spring. Consumer incomes will be reduced by higher Social Security taxes but the improving employment situation and the anticipated tax reduction later this year should more than offset the impact on consumer expenditures. The expected reduction in business taxes should also boost 1978 business expenditures.

On the negative side are the chronic trade deficit and the strong possibility of some slowdown in auto sales and housing starts from 1977's high levels.

The basic rate of inflation should be

REAL OUTPUT SLOWS . . .



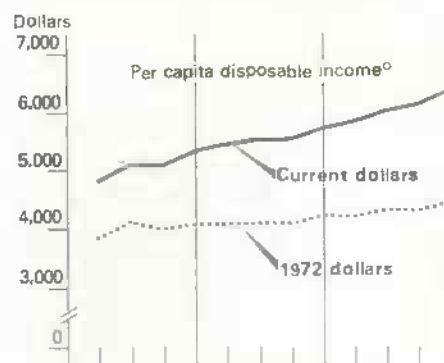
° Change from previous quarter. Seasonally adjusted annual rate.
° Preliminary

... AS INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION LEVELS ...



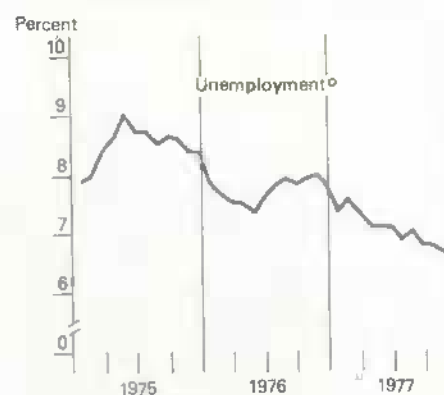
° Seasonally adjusted.

... WITH REAL INCOME RISING ...



° Seasonally adjusted annual rates.

... AND UNEMPLOYMENT EASING



° Seasonally adjusted.

about the same as in 1977—6 to 6½ percent. As the economy continues to expand, interest rates can be expected to rise. During 1977, short-term rates rose about 2 percentage points with long-term rates holding even. In 1978, moderate increases are expected in both short- and long-term rates.

Economy Slows in Second Half 1977

The general economy in 1977, though basically strong, expanded less vigorously during the second half. Real GNP, which increased at an annual rate of 6.9 percent during the first half, slowed to 4.7 percent during the second half. For the year as a whole, real GNP expanded 4.9 percent, compared with 6 percent in 1976.

Economic growth was spurred early in 1977 as inventory accumulation rebounded after a slowdown during the final quarter of 1976. During the first 3 months of 1977, rapid accumulation of inventories was accompanied by even faster growth of final sales, so that inventory-sales ratios declined.

Following an exceptionally sharp advance in March, retail sales edged lower during the spring while production of consumer goods continued to increase. The inevitable consequence was a moderate increase in inventories relative to sales. By midyear, efforts to pare inventories caused industrial production to dip in August. During the latter part of 1977, consumer sales picked up again, but inventory policy remained cautious.

The Consumer Price Index in 1977 advanced 6.8 percent, compared with 4.8 percent in 1976 and 7.0 percent in 1975. The acceleration last year was due primarily to changes in food prices, particularly in the first half of the year. Food price gains were caused mainly by higher prices of imported foods as well as increased marketing costs. Retail prices for items other than food rose 4.9 percent in 1977, about the same as in 1976.

Fourth Quarter Growth Sets Low for Year

Real GNP in the fourth quarter of 1977 slowed to an annual rate of 4.2 percent from 5.1 percent in the third quarter. This slowdown was directly attributable to a significant drop in inventory accumulation and a weakening of the foreign trade sector accompanied by sluggish performance in industrial output.

Industrial production rose slowly in December as the output of U.S. factories, mines, and utilities increased only 0.2 percent, following small gains in October and November. The December increase would

have been around twice as large if not for the nearly 50-percent cut in bituminous coal output due to the coal strike.

Real final sales, on the other hand, showed exceptional strength during the fourth quarter—the advance was greater than in any of the three previous quarters. Real personal consumption expenditures increased more than 2½ times the third quarter rate. The stepup was in goods; services rose less than in the third quarter. Business expenditures on plant and equipment, residential construction, and Government expenditures all moved up moderately.

The GNP implicit price deflator indicated some quickening in the pace of inflation, which averaged 6.2 percent at an annual rate in the fourth quarter compared with 4.8 percent in the third.

Employment and Income Gains Reflect Underlying Strength

Total employment during November and December increased by 1.4 million persons, or about a third of the total gain in employment during all of 1977. The unemployment rate declined rapidly during the fourth quarter, reaching 6.4 percent by December. This compared with unemployment rates of 7 percent or above for the entire January-August period.

At the same time, personal income from all sources rose a strong \$18 billion (annual rate) in December, following increases of \$22½ and \$16 billion in October and November, respectively. These increases were significantly larger than those earlier in the year.

Disposable personal income in real dollars during the fourth quarter increased 2.1 percent over the third quarter, the sharpest quarterly increase of the year. This occurred despite an acceleration in personal tax payments. On a real per capita basis, the final quarter also posted a record income gain for the year, rising nearly 5 percent above the same quarter in 1976. Ruth Elleson, (202) 447-7643

U.S. Acts To Curb Dollar Decline

In early January, the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board intervened on foreign exchange markets to bolster the dollar. This action followed the accelerating decline of the dollar against four major currencies—the Japanese yen, German mark, Swiss franc, and British pound. During 1977, the U.S. dollar depreciated 24 percent

against the yen and 14 percent against the mark.

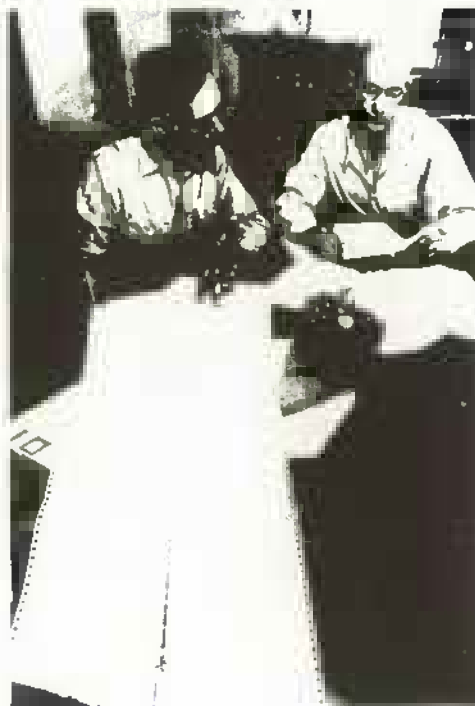
The depreciation has generated concern both here and abroad. For the United States, higher priced imports increase inflationary pressures. For the world economy, an undermining of the dollar—still the world's major reserve currency—would have a significant destabilizing influence. In addition, a large portion of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) surplus funds are held in dollars, and a weakening dollar could encourage another oil price hike.

U.S. actions to support the dollar by buying dollars with foreign currencies do not confront the basic problem that the United States imports more than it exports. Until the total U.S. trade deficit is alleviated somewhat, there will continue to be downward pressure on the dollar in the long run, particularly against the mark, yen, and Swiss franc.

Although the declines have been widely noted, the dollar's movement on exchange markets has not been uniformly downward. It appreciated against the currencies of some of our major trading partners including the largest, Canada. The U.S. dollar gained 7 percent on the Canadian dollar during 1977.

In fact, when exchange rates are weighted based on the value of U.S. farm and nonfarm imports from each of the 67 U.S. trading partners, the depreciation of the dollar caused U.S. imports to cost only 5 percent more at the end of 1977 than in 1971. On a trade-weighted basis for farm and nonfarm exports, the U.S. dollar appreciated 14 percent between 1971 and the end of 1977. The more expensive dollar indicates that the competitive advantages gained from the 1971 and 1973 dollar devaluations have been almost completely wiped out by devaluations in other currencies.

For agricultural exports only, the U.S. dollar depreciated about 6 percent between April 1971 and September 1977 on a trade-weighted basis for the 15 countries which took 70 percent of U.S. agricultural exports in fiscal 1977. The USSR and Eastern Europe were excluded because their currencies are inconvertible. *Amalia Vellianitis-Fidas, (202) 447-7590*



Inputs

The rate of increase in farmland values slowed and values even dropped in some areas in the last half of 1977, as more prospective buyers adopted a wait-and-see policy, and lenders became more cautious in light of the continuing cost-price squeeze which has put stress on the cash flow of farmers.

During the year ending November 1977, farmland values rose 11 percent, compared with 17 percent in the previous year. Most of the increase occurred during the first 3 months of the 1976/77 (December-November) year. Between February and November in 1977, land values rose only 5 percent, and values may increase only 3 to 4 percent from November till this February.

Low commodity prices are currently reported as the most important influence in land markets—replacing farm enlargement

which has traditionally been top ranked. As a result of the squeeze on the farm sector's financial position, the rate of transfers in 1977 likely dropped below year-earlier levels. These developments are also being reflected in lower cash rental rates.

A further slackening in demand for farmland at present prices will occur unless there is improvement from current grain prices. This will decrease interest in the purchase of farm real estate as a hedge against inflation. *Larry Walker, (202) 447-7383*

Farmers' Debt Up Sharply

Farm debt increased rapidly in 1977—rising a record 17 percent. The largest increase was in credit to farmers from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) as substantial quantities of wheat and corn moved under loan. In addition, all institutional lenders showed sizable gains in their loan holdings. Funds were being provided by farm machinery companies as credit terms were expanded to encourage sales. Emergency loans of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) rose sharply, reflecting crop damage or drought conditions in many areas of the country.

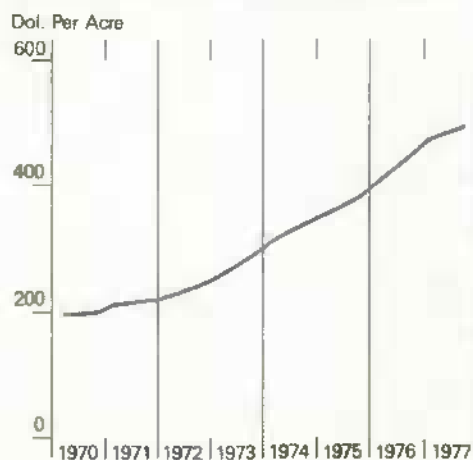
Producers who recently financed heavy investment in capital and real estate by mortgaging their assets have been hardest hit during this period of reduced cash flow.

Banks and production credit associations (PCA's) reported in the summer and fall of 1977 that about 5 percent of their present borrowers would not continue to be financed by them in the following year, if farm financial conditions continued as they were at that time. This proportion was only a little higher than usual, suggesting farm loan officials were working to help their most hard-pressed borrowers adjust to the lower incomes.

In this regard, the FmHA has announced that none of their farmer-borrowers having difficulty with loan repayments would be foreclosed if there appeared to be any reasonable prospect of their recovery at a later date.

Loan renewals and easier repayment terms were reported by the lender groups to have been used more frequently last summer and fall than during the year-earlier period, and more lenders were taking real estate as security for operating loans, a method of

GAINS IN FARMLAND VALUES EASE



FARM DEBT, ASSET VALUE, EQUITY AND INCOME

	1975	1976	1977 ¹	Change ²	
				1975-76	1976-77
	\$ Bil.			Pct.	
Farm debt outstanding on Dec. 31:					
Real estate	51.1	56.6	64.5	10.8	14.0
Nonreal estate (excluding CCC loans)	39.4	45.1	51.7	14.4	14.8
Commodity Credit Corporation loans .....	.3	1.0	2.5	182.7	146.2
Total farm debt	90.8	102.7	118.7	13.0	15.6
Value of farm assets on Dec. 31:					
Real estate	429.1	497.2	546.9	13.2	10.0
Other	163.7	173.7	182.7	6.1	5.2
Total farm assets	592.8	670.9	729.6	13.2	8.7
Equity of proprietors	502.0	568.2	610.9	13.2	7.5
Net cash income from farm and nonfarm sources	64.6	64.9	65.2	.5	.5

¹ Preliminary. ² Calculated from unrounded data.

reducing the possibility of loss on the loan.

FmHA has been providing backup loan support in those areas where drought and other weather difficulties have curtailed agricultural output. FmHA emergency loans on January 1, 1978 were probably close to \$1 billion greater than a year earlier. This was a fairly substantial part of the estimated \$6.2-billion rise in all nonreal estate farm loans (excluding CCC loans) nationwide during 1977.

For PCA borrowers, there was no further increase in loan renewals during the last half of 1977, and loan repayments improved relative to the first half of the year.

Income from CCC loans and the wheat deficiency payments has increased bank deposits in areas where wheat is an important commodity. Loan-deposit ratios of banks in those areas have probably become less tight, tending to improve the availability of bank loans. Overall, sufficient loan funds appear to be available in 1978.

Farm debts are expected to increase as rapidly in 1978 as last year. Some of the rise in real estate debt will again be from refinancing short-term debt into real estate debt. Because of lower farm product prices, farmers may borrow more for operating purposes, but capital outlays may be curtailed. *Philip Allen, (202) 447-7383*

Interest Rates May Rise A Little

Interest rates on real estate and nonreal estate loans edged down slightly in 1977, but some rise is expected for 1978.

Rates charged by Federal Land Banks at the end of 1977 were a little below 1975-76. PCA loan rates were about 1½ to 2 percentage points below the highs of early 1975, but were starting to rise late last year. *Philip Allen, (202) 447-7383*

Farm Workers Covered by Unemployment Insurance

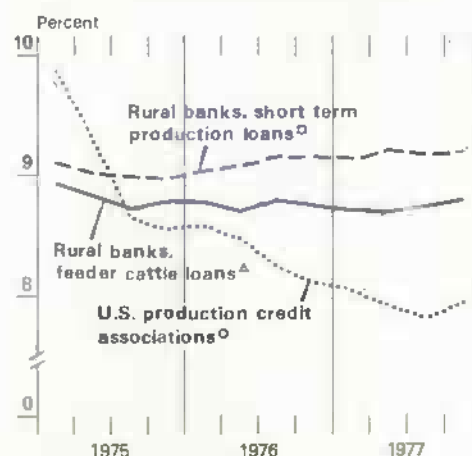
Workers employed by certain farm employers are now eligible to receive unemployment benefits while out of work. Under current provisions of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA), these provisions require farm employers to pay into their State unemployment insurance trust funds, based on wages paid beginning January 1978, if they hire at least 10 workers for 20 or more weeks, or meet a payroll of \$20,000 or more during at least one calendar quarter.

Benefits received by unemployed workers are proportional to weekly earnings received while working for covered employers. Former employees who quit work voluntarily, who are laid off for disciplinary reasons, or who are not actively seeking employment (for example, students) are ineligible to receive benefits.

The inclusion of agriculture under FUTA replaced 1974 emergency unemployment legislation. Under the emergency legislation, farm employers were not required to finance benefits paid to eligible, unemployed workers. *Conrad Fritsch, (202) 447-8865*

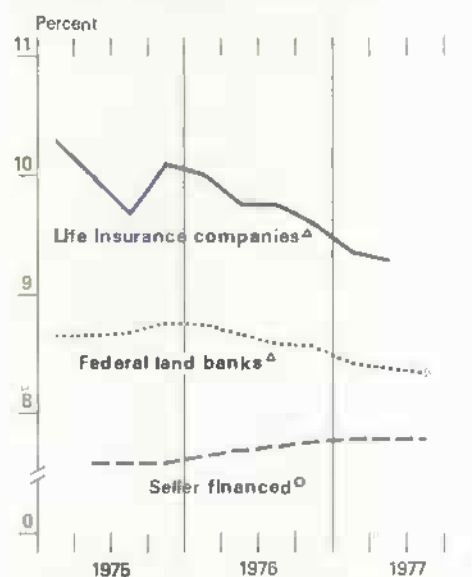
INTEREST RATES STILL ABOUT STEADY ON...

... NON-REAL ESTATE LOANS



○ Includes service fee.
 □ Minneapolis federal reserve district.
 △ Chicago federal reserve district.

... AND REAL ESTATE LOANS



△ Average interest rate on new farm mortgage loans.
 ○ Weighted average interest rates on seller land contracts and mortgages.

Federal Minimum Wage Rate Raised

Wages paid by farm employers for hired labor in 1977 averaged \$2.82 per hour, about 6 percent above 1976. This is the smallest annual increase since 1972. However, as a result of the 1977 amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act, wage rates paid by some farm employers may increase by more than twice that amount in 1978.

Beginning in January, the Federal minimum wage rate increased to \$2.65 per hour, up 20 percent from the \$2.20 per hour in effect during 1977. This was the largest single year increase since farm employees became covered in 1967. Farm employers who hired 500 or more mandays of labor during at least one calendar quarter of the previous year are subject to this Federal minimum rate.

Hourly increases have paralleled hikes in the Federal minimum wage rate for the past several years, but actual rates vary considerably by production region. Average wage rates in 1977 ranged from \$2.42 in the Appalachian States to \$3.38 in the Pacific region. Because of this variation, average wage rates in the low-wage States may increase by as much as 14 percent or more while wages in the high-wage States will show smaller increases.

Under master agreements negotiated by the United Farm Workers' Union, base wage rates for fieldworkers will increase to \$3.35 on February 1, 1978, up from \$3.28 in 1977. These agreements are most likely to determine the pattern of wage increases paid by employers in the Pacific States.



World Agriculture and Trade

World food supplies have increased from a year ago, although, at best, last year's gains in food output only kept pace with population growth. Total world food production (excluding the People's Republic of China) increased about 1 percent in 1977. Overall per capita food production was unchanged or may even have declined marginally because of slightly lower per capita output in East Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

World grain production (including wheat, coarse grains, and rough rice) is estimated at 1.43 billion metric tons in 1977/78, 2 percent below a year earlier. However, because carryin stocks totaled 194 million tons, world grain supplies for 1977/78 are at record levels. Grain consumption is expected to be up marginally since a 4-percent rise in grain use for livestock feeding is anticipated.

This supply-demand balance indicates that world stocks at the close of the 1977/78 marketing year will be about the same as the carryin level. Foreign-held stocks likely will be drawn down while U.S. stocks may be up about 23 percent.

Reduced World Wheat Crop To Boost Trade

Reduced area and lower yields are behind the estimated 8-percent reduction in world wheat production in 1977/78. Production is down about a fourth in Canada, Australia, and Argentina combined, and declines of 5

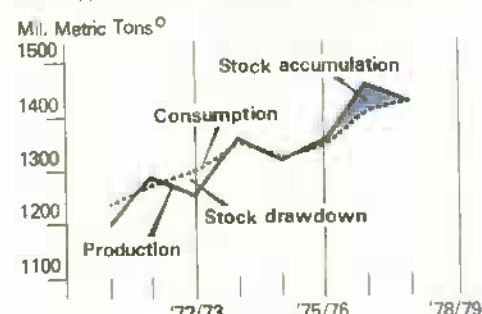
to 7 percent are apparent in the USSR, the People's Republic of China (PRC), and Western Europe. In India and Eastern Europe, production is near year-earlier levels.

World wheat trade is expected to expand 15 percent in 1977/78 to about 80 million tons. The United States will benefit from this expansion, with U.S. wheat exports expected to total about 30 million tons, up from 26 million in 1976/77. Increased U.S. exports are anticipated to the USSR, Latin America, East Asia, North Africa, Middle East, and Eastern Europe.

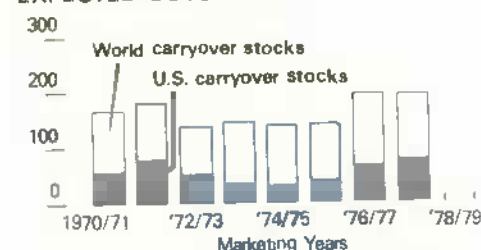
World rice production is expected to increase about 4 percent in 1977/78. Gains from year-earlier outturns are being recorded over most of Asia, where about four-fifths of the world's rice is grown. However, production shortfalls are expected in Thailand, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

World rice trade rose to 13.8 million tons (rough basis) in calendar 1977 from 12.4 million a year earlier. Much of the increase was attributable to the sharp rise in Thai exports. At the same time, imports by Indonesia, Iran, Bangladesh, and several other countries were larger. World rice trade during 1978 is forecast to total just over 12 million tons.

LARGE WORLD GRAIN PRODUCTION MATCHED BY CONSUMPTION...



...SLIGHT STOCK DRAWDOWN EXPECTED OUTSIDE U. S.



° Includes wheat, rice (rough) and major and minor coarse grains.

FARM WORK FORCE AND WAGE RATES IN 1977

Region	Work force ¹	Wage rate ¹
	Thou.	Dol. per hour
Northeast	129	2.64
Lake States	105	2.60
Corn Belt	155	2.74
Northern Plains ..	62	2.79
Appalachian	150	2.42
Southeast	139	2.78
Delta States	82	2.57
Southern Plains ...	103	2.61
Mountain	82	2.68
Pacific	285	3.38
United States ...	1,292	2.82

¹ Annual average for 1977 estimated from ESCS quarterly farm labor surveys.

Coarse Grain Output To Dip; Oilmeal To Rise Sharply

World *coarse grain* production is likely to drop slightly in 1977/78, but output is expected to exceed use for the second consecutive year. Soviet coarse grain output fell about 25 million tons below 1976's excellent harvest of 115 million tons. Production declines are also expected in the Southern Hemisphere exporting countries. Coarse grain production recovered well in Western Europe from 1976's drought-reduced harvest, and small increases were recorded in Canada and Eastern Europe.

World coarse grain trade may dip marginally below the 88.5 million tons exported in 1976/77. Of the major exporting countries, only the United States, South Africa, and France are expected to export more in 1977/78 than in 1976/77. Imports by West European countries will drop about 8 million tons because of the good 1977 harvests. Japanese and Polish imports are expected to continue to increase. Soviet coarse grain imports during 1977/78 are forecast at around 11 million tons, compared with 5.5 million in 1976/77 and a high of 15.5 million in 1975/76.

U.S. coarse grain exports should increase marginally in 1977/78, with larger shipments to most regions. However, these increases will be nearly offset by a reduction in shipments to Western Europe and Latin America.

World *oilmeal* production in calendar 1978 is expected to increase almost a fifth above 1977.¹ About three-fourths of the gain will result from the 33 percent larger 1977 U.S. soybean crop. Gains are also forecast for the Canadian rapeseed and Brazilian and Argentine soybean crops. Although the ambitious goal for Soviet sunflowerseed production was not met, output is well above the poor 1976 crop.

With expanded availabilities and lower prices, world oilmeal consumption is expected to rise about a tenth in 1978. Hog and poultry feeding is increasing in both Western Europe and Japan, and livestock numbers are growing in the USSR and Eastern Europe. However, the prospective increase in consumption would still allow for a stock buildup.

¹ Calendar 1978 oilmeal production includes oilseeds harvested in the fall of 1977 in the Northern Hemisphere.

Key Markets May Produce More Meat in 1978

World meat production may increase marginally in 1978, following little if any growth in 1977. In the key commercial markets—the United States, European Community (EC), Japan, and Canada—meat production may rise about 1 percent from the 46.8 million tons of 1977. An anticipated 4-percent increase in pork and poultry production will offset smaller beef and veal output.

In the EC, the downward movement in beef and veal production may turn around, and beef production could increase slightly in 1978. The hog breeding herd reached a record high in August 1977, but the rate of expansion has slowed.

In Japan, strong product prices, accompanied by some decline in the price of feed, should lead to at least a 5-percent increase in livestock production in 1978.

Livestock numbers in Eastern Europe increased moderately during 1977, indicating meat production should be larger in 1978. With anticipated substantial feed grain imports, feed supplies will be adequate during 1977/78. Thus, continued expansion is expected in the livestock sector.

The Soviet livestock sector showed good improvement in 1977. Livestock inventories increased during the year, with the largest gains for hog and poultry numbers. Soviet meat production totaled a tenth above 1976 but remained slightly below the 1973 level.

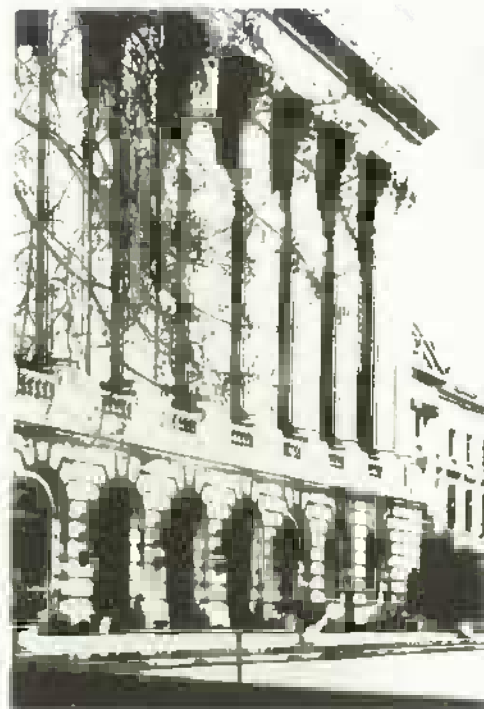
World meat trade volume in 1978 is expected to remain at 1977 levels because of continuing import restrictions by the major markets. *Sally Byrne, (202) 447-8261*

Outlook '79 Scheduled for November . . .

The 1979 Food and Agriculture Outlook Conference has been scheduled for Nov. 13-16 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. Sessions will focus on international trade, the commodity outlook, and family living.

Held annually since 1923, the Outlook conference is open to the public. There is no charge to attend and no advance registration necessary.

Proceedings from the 1978 conference held last November are now available. Please send requests to Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service Publications, Rm. 0054-South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



Reorganization Details

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has created a new agency, the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service (ESCS), by the merger of the Economic Research Service, the Statistical Reporting Service, and the Farmer Cooperative Service. The purpose of the merger is to enhance the coordination and improve the efficiency of the research efforts on the economics of agriculture, research on cooperatives, and the reporting of agricultural statistical information.

Some of the key functions of the new agency are to:

- Provide economic analysis on domestic and international agricultural supply and demand; on food supplies and prices, nutrition and labeling; on the production distribution and marketing of agricultural products; on the management of natural resources; and on development of rural communities and the welfare of rural people.

- Collect and report statistical information on U.S. agriculture, including estimates of crop and livestock production, demand and supply.

- Provide research and technical assistance on the economic and marketing aspects of cooperatives.



Recent Publications

Below is a list of selected USDA publications, listed by subject area, which may be of interest to our readers. To order reports you will need to write directly to the issuing agency (indicated in parentheses after each report citation) at the address listed below. Be sure when ordering to list publication number and provide your zipcode.

ESCS Reports:

The publication order form provided on the inside back cover shows the publication numbers for ESCS reports listed below. Simply circle those you would like to receive and mail to ESCS Publications, Room 0054 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

FAS Reports:

FAS Information, Room 5918 South, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

OGPA Reports:

Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, Publications, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

State Reports:

Publications issued by a State Crop and Livestock Reporting Service may be obtained by writing the address shown in parentheses. No copies are available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

New report listings, by subject matter:

Agricultural Trade

Japan: Production and Imports of Food. FAER-141 (ESCS).
P.L. 480 Concessional Sales. FAER-142 (ESCS).

Cocoa

Larger World Cocoa Bean Crop Forecast for 1977/78. FCB 2-77 (FAS).

Cotton

Brazilian Cotton Production Tapers Off as Consumption Rises. FC 21-77 (FAS).
U.S. Cotton Exports at Low Level in September. FC 23-77 (FAS).
U.S. Cotton Exports Continue To Lag. FC 24-77 (FAS).

Energy

Farmer Adjustments to Higher Energy Prices. ERS-663 (ESCS).

Farms and Farmers

Changes in Farm Production and Efficiency, 1977. SB-581 (ESCS).
Farms and Land in Farms, Final Estimates by States, 1969-75. SB-594 (OGPA).

Grains

East European Grain Production and Trade. FG 22-77 (FAS).
Pakistani Rice Exports by Major Destinations, 1969-1976. FR-4-77 (FAS).
Reference Tables on Area-Yield-Production of All Grains. FG 19-77 (FAS).
World Grain Situation—Crop and Trade Developments. FG-23-77 (FAS).

Livestock

Hogs and Pigs, Final Estimates for 1970-75. SB-588 (OGPA).
U.S. Livestock Product Exports Top Imports by \$29 Million in September. FLM MT 21-77 (FAS).
U.S. Livestock Product Exports Exceed Imports Again in October. FLM-MT 23-77 (FAS).

Milk

Issues in Milk Pricing and Marketing. AER-393 (ESCS).

Miscellaneous

1977 Handbook of Agricultural Charts. All-524 (ESCS).

Economics of Agriculture—Reports and Publications Issued or Sponsored by USDA's Economic Research Service, July 1975-September 1976. Supplement 8 to ERS-368 (ESCS).

Nuts

World Almond Crop Dips. Filbert Output Recovers. FN 3-77 (FAS).

Oilseeds and Products

Exports of U.S. Oilseeds and Products Increase in September—Fiscal year Total Up. FOP 22-77 (FAS).
Exports of U.S. Oilseeds and Products Double in October, Imports Drop. FOP 26-77 (FAS).

Sheep and Lambs

Sheep, Lambs, and Goats—Final Estimates for 1970-75. SB-587 (OGPA).

State Reports

Alabama Agricultural Statistics 1977.
Alabama Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, P.O. Box 1071, Montgomery, Alabama 36102.
Illinois Agricultural Statistics—Annual Summary 1977. Illinois Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, P.O. Box 429, Springfield, Illinois 62705.
Kentucky Agricultural Statistics 1976-1977. Kentucky Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, P.O. Box 1120, Louisville, Kentucky 40201.
1976 Texas County Statistics. 1976 Texas Agricultural Cash Receipts Statistics. 1976 Texas Prices Received and Paid by Farmers. 1977 Texas Small Grain Statistics. All four reports above available from the Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, P.O. Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767.
Virginia Agricultural Statistics. Virginia Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, P.O. Box 1569, Richmond, Virginia 23213.
1976 Washington Agricultural Statistics. Washington Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, 3039 Federal Office Building, 909 First Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98174.
Wyoming Agricultural Statistics 1977. Wyoming Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, P.O. Box 1148, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.

Statistics

Agricultural Statistics, 1977. For sale only, \$5.75. Available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Make checks payable to Superintendent of Documents.

Sugar and Sweeteners

World Sugar Production To Be Record in 1977/78. FS 4-77 (FAS).

Taxes

Agriculture and the Property Tax. AER-392 (ESCS).

Tobacco

U.S. Tobacco Exports Top \$1 Billion in Fiscal 1977. FT 6-77 (FAS).

Vegetables

Vegetables for Fresh Market, Estimates by Seasonal Groups and States, 1969-74. SB-586 (OGPA).

Situation and Outlook Reports

Situation and outlook reports issued by ESCS are listed below together with brief descriptions of their contents. These reports are free on request and mailing lists are maintained.

If you are interested in receiving any of these reports, you may first want to write for a sample copy. If you find the report contains information you need, you can then ask to be put on the mailing list.

Address all inquiries to Publications Unit, ESCS-Information, Room 0054, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Agricultural Finance Outlook, annual issued in December. It reviews the financial condition of farm operators by region and presents forecasts of loans, incomes, and other financial measures for the next year.

Cotton and Wool, Dairy, Fats and Oils, Feed, Fruit, Livestock and Meat, Poultry and Egg, Rice, Sugar and Sweetener, Tobacco, Vegetable, and Wheat. These commodity reports analyze supply and demand, prices, and outlook for major farm commodities. They include tables and charts presenting current data on production,

market movement, stocks, consumption, prices, and foreign trade. Relevant special studies frequently are included. Individual reports generally are issued 4 to 6 times a year.

Farm Real Estate Market Developments, annual in midsummer, with one supplement in midwinter and a second, as needed, in midspring. Summarizes trends in farmland values, volume of sales, financing of farm purchases, and factors affecting the land market. Each issue includes index numbers of estimated average value per acre by State.

Fertilizer Situation, published at the end of each year. Examines potential fertilizer demand and estimated capacity to produce basic fertilizer materials in the year ahead, analyzes U.S. fertilizer use in the year just concluding. Reviews foreign trade in fertilizer and basic fertilizer materials and discusses economic aspects of foreign trade.

Features historical economic and fertilizer use statistics. Special reports about production, consumption, and distribution of fertilizer prepared for each issue.

Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Exports, a quarterly analytical review, prepared jointly by ESCS and the Foreign Agricultural Service, on the short-term outlook for U.S. agricultural exports and imports.

This publication includes forecasts for the current fiscal year, and the February issue shows a forecast for the next fiscal year.

Price Spreads for Farm Foods, monthly. Contains statistics on farm-to-retail price spreads for a market basket of farm foods and selected individual foods such as beef and pork.

World Agricultural Situation, three times a year in early summer, fall, and winter. Appraises world agricultural situation for the current year. Regional situation and data books are issued during March-May for: Western Hemisphere, Western Europe, Africa and West Asia, and Far East and Oceania. Each report gives data by country on agricultural output, use, trade, trends, and significant policy developments, with special topics as appropriate.

Supply-Demand Estimates Reports

This series makes public as rapidly as possible USDA's current assessments of developments on the commodity scene. The assessments are made by an interagency board of USDA experts. They are released in tabular form with a brief commentary, on the day after the Statistical Reporting Service releases a major report on crop production, grain stocks, or planting intentions.

Supply-demand reports present statistics for major crops covering the balance of supply (production, stocks, imports) and demand (domestic use, exports, carryover) for the current marketing season. Rough indications of the supply-demand balance for one season ahead also may be included. The ESCS situation reports described above contain fuller descriptions of these estimates and their implications.

Report Wrapup...

USDA's Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service issues a variety of periodic reports that report on or analyze the economic situation of U.S. agriculture. *Periodicals 1978*, a brochure just off press, lists the titles of these ESCS reports, along with brief descriptions of their contents, frequency of issue, and how to be placed on their mailing lists.

To obtain your copy of *Periodicals 1978*, send a postcard to ESCS Publications, Room 0054 South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Statistical Indicators

Farm Income

Editor's Note: Farm income data for 1977 are currently being reviewed and updated. Preliminary 1977 farm income estimates will be available in the March *Agricultural Outlook* report.

Cash receipts from farming

Items	Annual			1976	1977					
	1974	1975	1976	Nov	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
	\$ Mil.									
Farm marketings and CCC loans ¹	92,449	88,077	94,326	9,999	6,701	6,951	7,579	8,153	10,854	10,680
Livestock and products	41,359	43,024	46,389	3,833	3,887	3,784	4,014	4,069	4,453	4,354
Meat animals	25,164	25,818	27,188	2,291	2,201	2,096	2,331	2,420	2,812	2,768
Dairy products	9,446	9,909	11,425	901	1,021	1,006	995	972	979	959
Poultry and eggs	6,257	6,791	7,192	601	614	633	641	634	619	587
Other	493	506	584	40	51	49	47	43	43	40
Crops	51,090	45,053	47,937	6,166	2,814	3,167	3,565	4,084	6,401	6,326
Food grains	8,511	7,763	6,799	481	723	950	797	626	515	252
Feed crops	13,959	12,153	13,475	1,620	797	847	814	800	1,412	1,905
Cotton (lint and seed)	2,893	2,311	3,552	939	31	37	140	196	653	862
Tobacco	2,097	2,155	2,270	249	5	78	464	424	286	355
Oil-bearing crops	9,965	7,278	8,855	1,367	216	124	201	549	1,944	1,436
Vegetables and melons	5,329	5,330	5,281	379	477	479	587	777	747	410
Fruits and tree nuts	3,435	3,531	3,500	409	359	386	315	379	457	502
Other	4,901	4,532	4,205	722	206	266	247	333	387	604
Government payments	530	807	734	94	32	31	48	88	86	104
Total cash receipts ²	92,979	88,884	95,060	10,093	6,733	6,982	7,627	8,241	10,940	10,784

¹ Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month. ² Details may not add because of rounding.

Farm Production¹

Items	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977 ²
	1967=100							
Farm output	101	111	110	112	108	114	117	121
All livestock products ³	105	108	108	105	106	101	106	108
Meat animals	108	112	110	108	110	102	106	108
Dairy products	100	101	102	98	98	98	103	105
Poultry and eggs	106	107	109	106	106	103	110	111
All crops ⁴	101	112	113	120	109	121	121	129
Feed grains	89	116	112	115	93	114	120	124
Hay and forage	99	105	104	109	104	108	102	108
Food grains	91	107	102	113	122	142	140	131
Sugar crops	114	116	127	112	104	131	130	117
Cotton	139	145	187	175	158	112	142	195
Tobacco	97	86	88	88	101	110	109	98
Oil crops	117	121	131	155	127	153	132	171
Cropland used for crops	98	100	98	104	106	108	109	110
Crop production per acre	104	112	115	115	103	112	111	117

¹ For historical data and explanation of indexes, see "Changes in Farm Production and Efficiency," Statistical Bulletin 561. ² Preliminary indexes for 1977 based on December 1977 "Crop Production" and other releases of the Crop Reporting Board, SRS. ³ Gross livestock production includes minor livestock products not included in the separate groups shown. It cannot be added to gross livestock production to compute farm output. ⁴ Gross crop production includes some miscellaneous crops not in the separate groups shown. It cannot be added to gross livestock production to compute farm output.

Farm marketing indexes (physical volume)

Items	Annual			1976		1977				
	1974	1975	1976	Nov	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
					1967=100					
All commodities	111	95	105	162	106	112	124	130	176	175
Livestock and Products	104	102	107	121	112	106	113	116	129	128
Crops	121	85	102	221	98	122	138	151	242	241

Cash receipts¹ from farm marketings, by States, January-November

State	Livestock and Products		Crops ²		Total ²	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	\$ Mil. ³					
NORTH ATLANTIC						
Maine	245.2	250.9	163.2	146.6	408.4	397.5
New Hampshire	52.7	54.5	19.8	20.3	72.5	74.8
Vermont	225.1	223.6	17.1	27.6	242.2	251.2
Massachusetts	103.9	103.9	92.6	95.0	196.5	198.9
Rhode Island	11.8	12.3	13.9	14.0	25.7	26.3
Connecticut	125.1	119.9	89.2	94.7	214.3	214.6
New York	1,126.2	1,106.8	437.6	462.6	1,563.8	1,569.4
New Jersey	100.5	95.7	212.0	221.2	312.5	316.9
Pennsylvania	1,189.0	1,216.3	452.5	468.0	1,641.5	1,684.3
NORTH CENTRAL						
Ohio	1,067.1	1,069.3	1,499.8	1,538.5	2,567.0	2,607.8
Indiana	1,239.2	1,251.0	1,839.7	1,871.1	3,078.9	3,122.1
Illinois	1,710.2	1,730.9	3,994.8	3,667.3	5,704.9	5,398.2
Michigan	747.1	751.5	813.8	829.4	1,560.9	1,580.9
Wisconsin	2,287.2	2,365.1	504.1	489.0	2,791.3	2,854.1
Minnesota	2,003.1	2,038.9	1,580.9	1,739.5	3,584.0	3,778.5
Iowa	3,700.2	3,755.5	2,732.6	2,599.0	6,432.9	6,354.5
Missouri	1,449.8	1,467.9	974.8	1,062.1	2,424.6	2,530.0
North Dakota	437.4	458.8	1,074.2	867.7	1,511.5	1,326.4
South Dakota	1,306.0	1,360.1	351.9	444.3	1,657.9	1,804.4
Nebraska	1,989.8	2,079.9	1,509.5	1,529.5	3,499.3	3,609.4
Kansas	1,783.6	1,792.8	1,449.2	1,449.8	3,232.7	3,242.6
SOUTHERN						
Delaware	165.9	161.3	94.2	77.5	260.1	238.8
Maryland	390.4	400.3	239.8	214.5	630.2	614.8
Virginia	512.2	540.6	448.9	416.1	961.2	956.7
West Virginia	95.4	98.0	32.3	38.5	127.8	136.5
North Carolina	984.8	1,014.1	1,675.2	1,458.1	2,660.0	2,472.2
South Carolina	259.1	257.4	512.2	470.0	771.4	727.5
Georgia	1,071.6	1,095.8	1,027.6	927.4	2,099.3	2,023.3
Florida	638.0	659.6	1,656.0	1,526.1	2,294.0	2,185.7
Kentucky	676.3	694.9	657.7	844.6	1,334.0	1,539.4
Tennessee	618.9	637.2	504.6	611.2	1,123.5	1,248.4
Alabama	919.4	929.6	567.4	521.7	1,486.9	1,451.2
Mississippi	627.3	657.4	832.5	779.2	1,459.8	1,436.7
Arkansas	976.6	1,016.5	1,090.9	1,097.0	2,067.5	2,113.4
Louisiana	373.1	379.6	735.1	665.9	1,108.2	1,045.5
Oklahoma	1,147.6	1,210.9	581.6	686.4	1,729.2	1,897.3
Texas	2,930.4	2,958.3	2,482.1	2,702.4	5,412.5	5,660.6
WESTERN						
Montana	409.3	463.5	488.1	383.4	897.4	846.8
Idaho	416.3	423.4	722.3	615.1	1,138.6	1,038.5
Wyoming	279.8	296.0	68.9	51.7	348.7	347.7
Colorado	1,275.6	1,311.5	466.0	442.1	1,741.6	1,753.7
New Mexico	471.3	508.8	174.9	184.0	646.2	692.9
Arizona	500.8	527.0	620.7	603.9	1,121.4	1,130.9
Utah	242.1	246.6	87.4	68.0	329.4	314.5
Nevada	95.6	101.6	38.4	32.8	134.0	134.4
Washington	481.1	489.7	1,122.8	1,021.6	1,603.8	1,511.3
Oregon	323.8	325.5	618.6	561.3	942.4	886.8
California	2,724.5	2,795.6	5,537.2	5,516.9	8,261.7	8,412.5
Alaska	3.7	3.8	4.3	4.0	8.0	7.8
Hawaii	56.8	58.6	238.8	239.3	295.6	297.9
UNITED STATES						
Grand Total	42,568.0	43,568.8	43,149.8	42,497.8	85,717.8	86,066.6

¹ Estimates as of the first of current month. ² Sales of farm products include receipts from loans reported minus value of redemptions during the period. ³ Rounded data may not add.

Farm Prices: Received and Paid

Indexes of prices received and paid by farmers, U.S. average

Items	Annual			1976	1977					
	1975	1976	1977	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1967=100										
Prices Received										
All farm products	185	186	183	178	180	175	174	178	179	181
All crops	201	197	193	190	182	173	171	178	185	183
Food grains	242	201	156	157	138	147	149	160	173	176
Feed grains and hay	230	218	182	199	167	149	147	152	167	174
Feed grains	232	214	174	193	158	140	138	145	162	169
Cotton	183	265	270	281	281	271	263	236	228	217
Tobacco	162	164	176	175	152	176	194	177	185	183
Oil-bearing crops	197	205	243	237	237	199	188	193	202	204
Fruit	138	132	161	121	151	169	176	222	195	185
Fresh market ¹	137	131	160	118	147	170	179	234	202	190
Commercial vegetables	162	161	179	161	158	155	159	168	186	157
Fresh market	173	173	198	172	167	162	168	183	210	166
Potatoes ²	214	201	199	156	241	220	171	177	187	184
Livestock and products	172	177	175	169	179	177	177	177	174	180
Meat animals	169	170	168	156	176	173	170	171	165	174
Dairy products	175	192	193	193	189	193	199	203	203	203
Poultry and eggs	179	178	174	184	176	170	173	163	165	167
Prices Paid										
Commodities and services										
Interest, taxes, and wage rates	180	192	202	193	203	202	201	201	202	203
Production items	182	193	200	193	201	199	197	198	199	200
Feed	187	191	186	193	183	170	164	164	172	177
Feeder livestock	134	154	158	143	161	162	161	164	157	158
Interest payable per acre on farm real estate debt	281	303	328	303	328	328	328	328	328	328
Taxes on farm real estate	162	176	186	176	186	186	186	186	186	186
Wage rates (seasonally adjusted)	192	210	226	206	231	231	231	220	220	220
Production items, interest, taxes, and wage rates	187	199	208	199	208	206	206	205	206	207
Prices received (1910-14=100)	463	465	458	446	451	438	435	439	448	453
Prices paid, etc. (Parity index) (1910-14=100)	614	653	686	657	690	686	685	684	687	689
Parity ratio ³	76	71	67	68	65	64	64	65	65	66

¹ Fresh market for noncitrus and fresh market and processing for citrus. ² Includes sweet potatoes and dry edible beans. ³ Ratio of index of prices received to index of prices paid, interest, taxes and wage rates. Note: Recent revisions will be carried next month.

Prices received by farmers, U.S. average

Commodities	Annual *			1976	1977					
	1975	1976	1977p	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Crops										
All wheat (\$/bu.)	3.68	3.14	2.29	2.39	2.04	2.13	2.16	2.30	2.46	2.47p
Rice, rough (\$/cwt.)	10.12	6.90	7.91	6.57	6.87	8.02	8.12	8.92	10.20	10.80p
Corn (\$/bu.)	2.70	2.49	2.03	2.24	1.88	1.63	1.60	1.67	1.88	1.98p
Sorghum (\$/cwt.)	4.31	4.01	3.11	3.51	2.84	2.63	2.52	2.80	3.03	3.16p
All hay, baled (\$/ton)	51.40	58.00	57.10	59.00	56.80	52.50	50.00	48.20	48.40	49.50p
Soybeans (\$/bu.)	5.24	5.58	6.83	6.56	6.60	5.42	5.17	5.28	5.61	5.68p
Cotton, Upland (cts./lb.)	41.2	59.9	60.7	63.1	63.1	60.9	59.1	53.1	51.4	48.8p
Potatoes (\$/cwt.)	4.04	4.15	3.95	3.15	5.14	4.56	3.49	3.12	3.21	3.17
Dry edible beans (\$/cwt.)	20.30	16.50	17.60	14.50	16.50	16.40	13.80	22.20	24.10	22.80
Apples for fresh use (cts./lb.)	11.5	10.1	12.3	11.3	13.4	12.7	13.3	12.7	12.4	12.6
Pears for fresh use (\$/ton)	¹ 169	178	146	171	140	116	181	197	185	207
Oranges, all uses (\$/box) ²	1.80	1.69	2.67	1.21	2.27	2.92	3.08	5.26	4.27	3.70
Grapefruit, all uses (\$/box) ²	1.78	1.42	1.63	1.41	1.30	2.12	2.06	2.94	1.73	1.84
Livestock										
Beef cattle (\$/cwt.)	32.20	33.90	34.50	32.40	34.90	34.70	34.80	35.40	34.60	35.70
Calves (\$/cwt.)	26.90	34.50	36.90	32.80	36.60	37.10	38.30	37.60	37.00	37.80
Hogs (\$/cwt.)	47.60	43.00	40.00	36.30	44.90	42.80	40.20	39.90	37.50	41.50
Lambs (\$/cwt.)	42.10	47.60	51.30	44.70	50.70	49.00	51.20	52.10	52.20	56.00
All milk, sold to plants (\$/cwt.)	8.78	9.66	9.71	9.72	9.50	9.69	10.00	10.20	10.20	10.20p
Milk, manuf. grade (\$/cwt.)	7.71	8.56	8.71	8.53	8.58	8.64	8.83	8.99	9.10	9.17p
Broilers (cts./lb.)	26.2	23.1	23.5	19.3	26.2	23.9	24.0	23.1	21.0	20.2
Eggs (cts./doz.) ³	52.8	58.8	54.0	69.5	50.7	51.5	52.6	47.3	51.3	53.6
Turkeys (cts./lb.)	33.6	31.7	34.8	33.5	33.7	33.7	34.3	36.5	38.7	40.3
Wool (cts./lb.) ⁴	44.7	65.7	73.2	69.5	73.3	71.6	71.0	73.7	70.9	72.1

¹ Eleven month average. ² Equivalent on-tree returns. ³ Average of all eggs sold by farmers, including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail. ⁴ Average local market price, excluding incentive payments. p Preliminary. * Calendar year averages. Note: Recent revisions will be carried next month.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Wholesale Price Index, U.S. average (not seasonally adjusted)

Commodity group	Annual			1976	1977					
	1975	1976	1977*	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1967=100									
All commodities	174.9	183.0	194.2	187.1	194.9	194.6	195.3	196.3	197.0	198.2
Industrial commodities	171.5	182.4	195.1	187.4	195.8	196.9	197.8	199.1	199.2	200.0
All foods ¹	186.0	178.9	186.8	178.5	189.1	187.3	186.8	187.1	188.1	190.5
Farm products and processed foods and feeds	184.2	183.1	188.8	183.9	189.3	184.2	183.9	184.2	186.8	189.5
Farm products	186.7	191.0	192.5	191.6	190.5	181.2	181.9	182.4	185.5	188.3
Fruits and vegetables ²	183.7	178.4	192.2	174.5	182.0	176.4	182.8	187.9	192.9	170.1
Grains	223.9	205.9	165.3	180.6	153.3	142.5	144.2	144.7	164.6	167.3
Livestock	187.8	173.3	173.0	166.1	180.5	175.2	172.9	177.5	171.6	182.7
Poultry, live	189.8	166.9	175.4	145.7	193.7	176.1	181.7	170.5	162.7	157.8
Fibers, plant and animal	153.1	223.9	202.3	239.5	195.3	180.3	165.8	166.9	164.1	161.0
Milk	180.2	201.2	202.6	202.8	202.7	202.7	206.7	209.6	209.8	210.1
Eggs	159.8	179.1	162.0	213.6	156.6	162.0	163.3	137.6	149.4	166.3
Oilseeds	198.5	204.4	236.8	238.2	205.4	202.2	175.6	181.6	202.3	204.2
Processed foods and feeds	182.6	178.0	186.1	179.0	187.8	185.1	184.2	184.5	186.7	189.3
Meats	188.7	173.6	170.7	167.9	177.6	172.8	171.4	175.7	174.7	183.6
Beef and veal	176.3	156.0	157.5	156.1	160.6	158.9	156.5	163.8	163.5	168.5
Pork	214.7	201.4	190.1	190.5	206.2	193.5	191.7	195.5	189.4	207.0
Poultry	184.1	166.2	173.3	149.6	188.0	174.2	178.6	170.1	163.0	160.0
Fish	218.7	272.4	294.3	292.1	297.0	281.8	288.7	283.6	287.2	294.8
Dairy	155.8	168.5	173.4	167.3	175.1	175.3	175.7	175.9	176.9	178.2
Processed fruits and vegetables	169.8	170.2	187.3	175.6	188.5	190.1	191.2	190.3	193.0	194.4
Cereal and bakery products	178.0	172.1	173.2	168.6	172.0	172.1	172.8	175.4	179.7	182.0
Sugar and confectionery	254.3	190.9	177.6	170.5	172.7	180.2	174.3	170.1	177.8	179.0
Beverages	162.4	173.5	200.9	183.8	204.7	205.5	204.8	204.3	200.6	201.3
Vegetable oil and products	211.5	174.2	198.7	178.3	209.6	199.9	202.0	197.0	192.3	197.4
Textile products and apparel	139.1	148.2	154.0	149.9	154.4	154.4	155.1	155.2	155.3	155.9
Apparel	133.4	139.9	147.3	142.9	147.2	147.4	148.4	148.6	149.1	149.4
Hides, leather, and related products	148.5	167.8	179.5	171.5	180.3	180.5	179.9	179.6	180.3	181.8
Footwear	147.8	158.9	168.9	163.8	170.3	170.4	170.5	171.7	172.0	172.1
Lumber and wood products	176.8	205.6	236.2	220.0	235.5	242.7	252.4	247.3	243.2	249.1
Tobacco products	149.6	163.0	180.0	172.3	175.7	175.8	189.6	189.6	189.6	189.9

¹ Includes all processed food (except soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, and manufactured animal feeds) plus eggs and fresh and dried fruits and vegetables from farm products group. ² Fresh and dried. * Annual averages computed by USDA from preliminary monthly data reported by BLS; still subject to revision.

Consumer Price Index, U.S. average (not seasonally adjusted)

Items	Annual			1976	1977					
	1975	1976	1977	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1967=100									
Consumer price index, all items	161.2	170.5	181.5	174.3	182.6	183.3	184.0	184.5	185.4	186.1
Consumer price index, less food	157.1	167.5	178.4	172.2	179.2	179.9	180.9	181.6	182.5	183.1
All food	175.4	180.8	192.2	181.7	194.6	195.2	194.5	194.4	195.6	196.3
Food away from home	174.3	186.1	200.3	190.9	201.7	203.0	203.7	204.6	205.4	206.2
Food at home	175.8	179.5	190.2	179.3	192.8	193.2	192.2	191.7	193.0	193.7
Meats ¹	177.9	178.2	174.2	167.4	175.8	177.4	177.7	176.3	177.5	178.3
Beef and veal	170.0	164.5	163.6	160.7	164.2	164.0	164.1	163.7	166.0	168.0
Pork	196.9	199.5	188.8	174.7	192.0	196.8	197.6	194.2	193.8	191.7
Poultry	162.4	155.7	156.7	144.0	161.2	161.1	160.3	158.5	157.4	153.6
Fish	203.3	227.3	251.3	237.6	254.3	256.7	258.8	260.3	262.4	262.6
Eggs	157.8	172.4	166.9	193.8	163.6	166.2	166.6	154.5	157.9	148.6
Dairy products ²	156.6	169.3	173.9	171.4	174.1	175.1	175.4	176.2	176.5	176.9
Fats and oils ³	198.6	173.7	191.4	177.3	198.7	201.0	200.1	197.8	197.2	196.1
Fruits and vegetables	171.0	175.4	191.6	175.5	194.1	192.1	183.2	184.0	188.7	192.5
Fresh	166.1	170.2	193.4	171.4	197.1	193.4	177.6	178.6	185.0	188.0
Processed	178.3	183.0	188.8	181.4	189.7	190.2	191.5	192.1	194.2	199.2
Cereals and bakery products	184.8	180.6	183.5	179.3	183.3	182.7	184.9	185.6	187.1	189.0
Sugar and sweets	246.2	218.2	229.4	211.1	232.0	232.5	233.2	234.6	236.3	239.7
Beverages, nonalcoholic	178.9	214.0	322.4	246.9	348.3	347.4	346.2	343.2	337.4	334.3
Apparel commodities less footwear	140.6	144.9	150.6	149.2	149.6	151.1	152.6	153.7	155.1	154.5
Footwear	144.2	149.9	156.9	153.4	155.9	157.3	158.1	159.1	159.9	159.6
Tobacco products	153.9	160.5	168.2	163.7	167.2	167.4	170.0	171.7	172.8	173.0
Beverages, alcoholic	142.1	146.8	150.9	148.8	151.4	151.1	151.9	152.3	153.2	153.2

¹ Beef, veal, lamb, mutton, pork, and processed meat. ² Includes butter. ³ Excludes butter.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-retail price spreads

Commodities	Annual			1976						
	1975	1976	1977p	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Market basket¹:										
Retail cost (1967=100)	173.6	175.4	179.2	173.0	180.4	180.8	179.7	179.2	180.9	181.8
Farm value (1967=100)	187.2	178.4	179.1	170.4	181.3	180.7	178.0	180.0	179.6	181.3
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	165.0	173.5	179.3	174.6	179.8	180.9	180.8	178.7	181.7	182.1
Farmer's share (%)	42	39	39	38	39	39	38	39	39	39
Beef, choice:										
Retail price ² (cts./lb.)	146.0	138.9	138.3	138.9	138.3	139.2	138.9	141.5	141.9	144.8
Carcass value ³ (cts.)	105.5	88.6	91.0	90.8	92.2	90.6	91.3	95.5	95.2	98.6
Net farm value (cts./2.28 lbs.)	92.9	77.9	79.9	79.8	81.3	79.1	80.2	84.4	83.4	86.1
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	53.1	61.0	58.4	59.1	57.0	60.1	58.7	57.1	58.5	58.7
Carcass-retail spread ⁴ (cts.)	40.5	50.3	47.3	48.1	46.1	48.6	47.6	46.0	46.7	46.2
Farm-carcass spread ⁵ (cts.)	12.6	10.7	11.1	11.0	10.9	11.5	11.1	11.1	11.8	12.5
Farmer's share (%)	64	56	58	57	59	57	58	60	59	59
Pork:										
Retail price ² (cts./lb.)	135.0	134.3	125.4	117.2	132.1	130.3	130.8	126.9	127.5	130.6
Wholesale value ³ (cts.)	103.8	93.6	87.6	83.9	92.5	90.0	85.4	88.2	90.6	95.1
Net farm value (cts./1.97 lbs.)	86.9	78.5	73.4	67.5	62.0	79.4	73.7	74.2	70.3	79.0
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	48.1	55.8	52.0	49.7	50.1	50.9	57.1	54.2	57.2	51.6
Carcass-retail spread ⁴ (cts.)	31.2	40.7	37.8	33.3	39.6	40.3	45.4	38.7	36.9	35.5
Farm-carcass spread ⁵ (cts.)	16.9	15.1	14.2	16.4	10.5	10.6	11.7	15.5	20.3	16.1
Farmer's share (%)	64	58	59	58	62	61	56	57	55	60
Milk, fresh:										
Retail Price (cts./½ gal.)	78.5	82.8	83.9	83.6	83.4	84.2	84.1	84.5	84.6	84.6
Farm value (cts./4.39 lbs. Class I)	41.2	46.2	45.8	45.0	46.4	47.0	47.2	46.8	46.8	46.8
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	37.3	36.6	38.1	38.6	37.0	37.2	36.9	37.7	37.8	37.8
Farmer's share (%)	52	56	55	54	56	56	56	55	55	55
Chicken, frying:										
Retail Price (cts./lb.)	63.2	59.7	60.1	54.3	62.1	62.1	61.5	60.4	59.8	57.7
Farm value (cts./1.41 lbs. broilers)	37.0	32.6	33.0	28.1	36.8	34.4	35.5	33.0	30.2	27.9
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	26.2	27.1	27.1	26.2	25.3	27.7	26.0	27.4	29.6	29.8
Farmer's share (%)	59	55	55	52	59	55	58	55	51	48
Eggs, large grade A										
Retail price (cts./doz.)	77.0	84.9	82.3	96.3	80.9	82.0	81.7	76.1	77.6	72.5
Farm value (cts./1.03 doz.)	50.8	58.0	53.8	70.8	53.5	54.8	54.8	47.8	51.2	44.3
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	26.2	26.9	28.5	25.5	27.4	27.2	26.9	28.3	25.4	28.2
Farmer's share (%)	66	68	65	74	66	67	67	63	67	61
Bread, white:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	36.0	35.3	35.5	35.2	35.6	35.6	35.7	35.5	35.4	35.9
Farm value (cts./0.867 lb. wheat)	4.5	3.8	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.8
Farm value (cts. for all farm ingredients)	6.8	5.6	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.7
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	29.2	29.7	31.0	30.8	31.4	31.3	31.3	30.9	30.8	31.2
Farmer's share (%)	19	16	13	12	12	12	12	13	13	13
Lettuce:										
Retail price (cts./head)	41.7	47.7	47.6	43.3	44.0	43.6	51.6	53.6	49.5	56.8
Farm value (cts./1.88 lbs.)	13.8	17.1	15.0	14.0	11.0	11.4	15.9	21.3	22.8	13.9
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	27.9	30.6	32.6	29.3	33.0	32.2	35.7	32.3	26.7	42.9
Farmer's share (%)	33	36	32	32	25	26	31	40	46	24
Potatoes:										
Retail price (cts./10 lbs.)	134.4	145.8	149.7	122.2	186.1	161.6	136.2	129.2	131.6	132.2
Farm value (cts./10.42 lbs.)	42.2	43.2	41.2	32.8	53.5	47.5	36.3	32.5	33.4	33.0
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	92.2	102.6	108.5	89.4	132.6	114.1	99.9	96.7	98.2	99.2
Farmer's share (%)	31	30	28	27	29	29	27	25	25	25
Tomatoes:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	57.9	57.6	67.8	64.7	54.5	64.7	58.4	59.6	63.1	72.7
Farm value (cts./1.18 lbs.)	23.8	23.8	28.2	24.8	27.0	25.3	24.6	21.3	35.6	22.1
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	34.1	33.8	39.6	39.9	27.5	39.4	33.8	38.3	27.5	50.6
Farmer's share (%)	41	41	42	38	50	39	42	36	56	30
Orange juice, frozen concentrate:										
Retail Price (cts./6-oz. can)	26.2	28.7	34.6	28.0	34.6	35.1	37.0	38.4	39.2	41.2
Farm value (cts./3.08 lbs.)	8.6	10.7	10.5	11.0	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	19.6	18.0	24.1	17.0	23.3	23.8	25.7	27.1	27.9	29.9
Farmer's share (%)	30	37	30	39	33	32	31	29	29	27
Margarine:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	62.9	52.5	57.2	53.0	59.6	60.8	61.0	59.6	59.6	58.8
Farm value (cts. for veg. oil and NFDM)	21.1	16.6	20.5	18.0	22.0	19.8	16.2	18.1	16.8	19.4
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	41.8	35.9	36.7	35.0	37.6	41.0	44.8	41.5	42.8	39.4
Farmer's share (%)	34	32	36	34	37	33	27	30	28	33

¹ For a market basket of U.S. farm foods representing the average quantities purchased annually per household in 1960-61. Retail prices are from Bureau of Labor Statistics unless otherwise noted. The farm value is the payment to farmers for quantity of farm product equivalent to retail unit, less allowance for byproduct. Farm values are based on prices at first point of sale and may include marketing charges such as grading and packing for some commodities. The farm-retail spread, the difference between the retail price and the farm value, represents charges for assembling, processing, transporting, and distributing these foods. ² Composite monthly average prices of all cuts adjusted for volume sold at special prices derived from BLS and food chain prices. ³ For a quantity equivalent to 1 lb. retail cuts: Beef, 1.41 lb. of carcass beef (yield grade 3); pork, 1.07 lb. of wholesale cuts. ⁴ Represents charges for retailing and other marketing services such as fabricating, wholesaling, and in-city transportation. ⁵ Represents charges made for livestock marketing, processing, and transportation to city where consumed. p Preliminary.

Farm-retail spreads for selected foods

Fourth Quarter

Commodities in retail units	Retail price (cents)			Farm value (cents)			Farm-retail spread (cents)			Farmer's share (percent)		
	1975	1976	1977 ¹	1975	1976	1977 ¹	1975	1976	1977 ¹	1975	1976	1977 ¹
Beef, Choice (lb.)	151.4	136.0	142.7	94.3	77.8	84.6	57.1	58.2	58.1	62	57	59
Lamb, Choice (lb.)	176.2	183.7	191.2	98.6	90.7	110.5	77.6	93.0	80.7	56	49	58
Pork (lb.)	153.4	119.8	128.3	93.6	60.5	74.0	59.8	59.3	54.3	61	50	58
Butter (lb.)	118.9	128.9	137.3	83.8	78.2	86.0	35.1	50.7	51.3	70	61	63
Cheese, American process (½ lb.)	83.0	85.2	87.6	42.0	39.1	41.9	41.0	46.7	45.7	51	46	48
Ice cream (½ gal.)	123.4	131.0	138.7	47.1	43.8	47.2	76.3	87.2	91.5	38	33	34
Milk, evaporated (14½ oz.)	31.6	34.9	37.3	16.7	16.3	16.9	14.9	18.6	20.4	53	47	45
Milk, fresh:												
Sold in stores (½ gal.)	80.0	84.0	84.6	44.4	46.5	46.8	35.6	37.5	37.8	56	55	55
Chicken, frying (lb.)	66.1	55.1	59.3	39.1	28.0	30.4	27.0	27.1	28.9	59	51	51
Turkey (lb.)	77.6	71.5	76.7	46.6	40.7	49.3	31.0	30.8	27.4	60	57	64
Eggs, large Grade A (doz.)	80.6	91.4	75.4	54.5	63.7	47.8	26.1	27.7	27.6	68	70	63
Bread, white:												
All ingredients (lb.)	35.2	35.3	35.6	6.4	4.5	4.6	28.8	30.8	31.0	18	13	13
Wheat (lb.)	—	—	—	4.4	2.9	2.8	—	—	—	12	8	8
Bread, whole wheat (lb.)	57.4	58.7	60.9	5.7	4.4	4.4	51.7	54.3	56.5	10	7	7
Cookies, sandwich (lb.)	91.6	96.0	115.7	11.3	9.7	9.9	80.3	86.3	105.8	12	10	9
Corn flakes (12 oz.)	51.7	51.1	57.0	4.2	4.0	3.2	47.5	47.1	53.8	8	8	6
Flour, white (5 lb.)	96.6	89.5	81.2	35.5	22.7	22.6	61.1	66.8	58.6	37	25	28
Rice, long grain (lb.)	46.1	41.1	40.5	12.5	9.4	14.5	33.6	31.7	26.0	27	23	36
Apples (lb.)	27.9	33.7	35.3	9.2	12.3	13.1	18.7	21.4	22.2	33	36	37
Grapefruit (ea.)	19.4	22.6	23.7	3.8	4.3	5.1	15.6	18.3	18.6	20	19	22
Lemons (lb.)	55.4	43.9	47.3	17.8	8.2	12.1	37.6	35.7	35.2	32	19	26
Oranges (doz.)	119.5	121.0	148.6	26.0	26.2	42.4	93.5	94.8	106.2	22	22	29
Cabbage (lb.)	15.9	16.8	20.0	5.9	6.9	7.8	10.0	9.9	12.2	37	41	39
Carrots (lb.)	24.7	28.5	28.9	8.1	10.6	10.6	16.6	17.9	18.3	33	37	37
Celery (lb.)	30.8	28.4	30.6	11.5	7.7	7.8	19.3	20.7	22.8	37	27	25
Cucumbers (lb.)	33.2	34.6	33.4	12.7	14.8	10.3	20.5	19.8	23.1	38	43	31
Lettuce (head)	44.0	57.5	53.3	15.4	20.9	19.3	28.6	36.6	34.0	35	36	36
Onions (lb.)	23.2	20.4	22.1	10.8	6.2	6.6	12.4	14.2	15.5	47	30	30
Peppers, green (lb.)	52.5	56.2	54.6	19.2	21.4	18.4	33.3	34.8	36.2	37	38	34
Potatoes (10 lb.)	141.1	120.5	131.0	39.5	32.5	33.0	101.6	88.0	98.0	28	27	25
Tomatoes (lb.)	52.3	61.8	65.1	21.3	28.6	26.3	31.0	33.2	38.8	41	46	40
Peaches, canned (no. 2½)	59.7	59.9	61.4	15.7	14.6	12.7	44.0	45.3	48.7	26	24	21
Pears, canned (No. 2½)	73.6	70.8	72.4	16.7	15.2	13.2	56.9	55.6	59.2	23	21	18
Beets, canned (No. 303)	32.3	32.9	35.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	29.9	30.5	33.1	7	7	7
Corn, canned (No. 303)	37.4	34.9	31.9	5.6	5.6	5.3	31.8	29.3	26.6	15	16	17
Peas, canned (No. 303)	39.1	38.7	38.0	8.0	8.0	7.4	31.1	30.7	30.6	20	21	19
Tomatoes, canned (No. 303)	35.3	35.4	38.2	4.8	4.8	4.8	30.5	30.6	33.4	14	14	13
Lemonade, frozen (6-oz. can)	23.2	22.6	23.2	5.5	5.3	2.6	17.7	17.3	20.6	24	23	11
Orange juice, frozen (6-oz. can)	28.7	27.9	39.6	8.8	11.0	11.3	19.9	16.9	28.3	31	39	29
Potatoes, french fried, frozen (9 oz.)	26.1	27.8	29.2	4.9	5.1	4.4	21.2	22.7	24.8	19	20	15
Peas, frozen (10 oz.)	35.1	34.9	39.2	7.3	7.3	6.6	27.8	27.6	32.6	21	21	17
Beans, dried (lb.)	49.2	44.0	45.0	27.2	14.4	21.8	22.0	29.6	23.2	55	33	48
Margarine (lb.)	58.2	52.8	59.3	16.3	18.2	18.1	41.9	34.6	41.2	28	34	31
Peanut butter (12-oz. jar) ²	70.4	71.2	74.7	26.0	27.6	29.2	44.4	43.6	45.5	37	39	39
Salad and cooking oil (24-oz. bottle)	106.5	96.4	110.3	26.9	29.5	54.2	79.6	66.9	56.1	25	31	49
Vegetable shortening (3 lb.)	175.4	153.8	162.4	56.3	63.1	61.8	119.1	90.7	100.6	32	41	38
Sugar (5 lb.)	138.4	108.3	106.5	53.7	38.5	44.2	84.7	69.8	62.3	39	36	42
Spaghetti, canned (15½-oz. can)	26.8	27.1	29.0	3.9	3.3	3.0	22.9	23.8	26.0	15	12	10

¹ Preliminary. ² Farm value revised—farm-product equivalent of farmer's stock peanuts changed from 1.35 pounds in 1975 to 1.38 pounds in 1976 and 1.42 pounds in 1977.

Price spreads for beef and pork

Item	Retail price per pound ¹	Carcass value ²	Gross farm values ³	Byproduct allowance ⁴	Net value ⁵	Farm-retail spread			Farmer's share	
						Total	Carcass- retail ⁶	Farm- carcass ⁷		
Cents										Percent
Beef, Choice grade										
1971	104.3	75.7	72.3	4.5	67.8	36.5	28.6	7.9	65	
1972	113.8	80.1	79.8	7.4	72.4	41.4	33.7	7.7	64	
1973	135.5	98.1	100.0	10.1	89.9	45.6	37.4	8.2	66	
1974	138.8	97.4	93.7	7.6	86.1	52.7	41.4	11.3	62	
1975	146.0	105.5	99.9	7.0	92.9	53.1	40.5	12.6	64	
1976	138.9	88.6	86.3	8.4	77.9	61.0	50.3	10.7	56	
1977	138.3	91.0	89.0	9.1	79.9	58.4	47.3	11.1	58	
1975										
Jan.-Mar.	129.6	86.6	80.3	5.1	75.2	54.4	43.0	11.4	58	
Apr.-June	146.5	113.4	108.4	7.1	101.3	45.2	33.1	12.1	69	
July-Sept.	156.4	115.4	108.8	7.9	100.9	55.5	41.0	14.5	65	
Oct.-Dec.	151.4	106.5	102.2	7.9	94.3	57.1	44.9	12.2	62	
1976										
Jan.-Mar.	142.1	89.8	85.3	7.6	77.7	64.4	52.3	12.1	55	
Apr.-June	141.5	93.0	91.9	8.8	83.1	58.4	48.5	9.9	59	
July-Sept.	136.1	83.8	82.1	9.0	73.1	63.0	52.3	10.7	54	
Oct.-Dec.	136.0	88.0	85.8	8.0	77.8	58.2	48.0	10.2	57	
1977										
Jan.-Mar.	135.1	85.3	83.3	9.0	74.3	60.8	49.8	11.0	55	
Apr.-June	136.6	90.8	90.1	9.7	80.4	56.2	45.8	10.4	59	
July-Sept.	138.8	91.4	88.9	8.7	80.2	58.6	47.4	11.2	58	
Oct.-Dec.	142.7	96.4	93.6	9.0	84.6	58.1	46.3	11.8	59	
Pork										
1971	70.3	52.1	35.1	2.8	32.3	38.0	18.2	19.8	46	
1972	83.2	65.3	51.2	3.5	47.7	35.5	17.9	17.6	57	
1973	109.8	87.3	78.2	6.7	71.5	38.3	22.5	15.8	65	
1974	108.2	77.4	68.0	7.2	60.8	47.4	30.8	16.6	56	
1975	135.0	103.8	94.8	7.9	86.9	48.1	31.2	16.9	64	
1976	134.3	93.6	84.4	6.0	78.5	55.8	40.7	15.1	58	
1977	125.4	87.6	79.4	6.0	73.4	52.0	37.8	14.2	59	
1975										
Jan.-Mar.	114.4	85.7	75.6	7.3	68.3	46.1	28.7	17.4	60	
Apr.-June	123.1	96.7	88.9	7.4	81.5	41.6	26.4	15.2	66	
July-Sept.	149.2	118.9	114.0	9.7	104.3	44.9	30.3	14.6	70	
Oct.-Dec.	153.4	114.1	100.9	7.3	93.6	59.8	39.3	20.5	61	
1976										
Jan.-Mar.	141.5	100.3	92.6	6.2	86.4	55.1	41.2	13.9	61	
Apr.-June	138.5	100.6	95.0	6.3	88.7	49.8	37.9	11.9	64	
July-Sept.	137.4	93.1	84.5	6.1	78.4	59.0	44.3	14.7	57	
Oct.-Dec.	119.8	80.2	65.5	5.0	60.5	59.3	39.6	19.7	50	
1977										
Jan.-Mar.	120.6	84.1	75.0	6.1	68.9	51.7	36.5	15.2	57	
Apr.-June	121.8	85.7	78.6	6.5	72.1	49.7	36.1	13.6	59	
July-Sept.	131.1	89.3	84.4	6.0	78.4	52.7	41.8	10.9	60	
Oct.-Dec.	128.3	91.3	79.6	5.6	74.0	54.3	37.0	17.3	58	

¹ Composite monthly average prices of all cuts adjusted for volume sold at special prices—derived from BLS and food chain prices. ² For a quantity equivalent to 1 lb. retail cuts: Beef, 1.41 lb. of carcass beef (1975 and later data based on yield grade 3); pork, 1.07 lb. of wholesale cuts. ³ Payment to farmers for quantity of live animal equivalent to 1 retail pound: Beef, 2.28 lb. and pork 1.97 lb. ⁴ Portion of gross farm value attributed to edible and inedible byproducts. ⁵ Gross farm value minus byproduct allowance. ⁶ Includes not only gross margin for retailing but also charges made for other marketing services such as fabricating, wholesaling, and in-city transportation. ⁷ Includes charges made for livestock marketing, processing, and transportation to city where consumed.

Market basket of farm foods¹

Product group	Annual			1976 ³	1977 ²			
	1975	1976 ³	1977 ²	IV	I ³	II	III	IV
Dollars								
Retail cost								
Meat	582.68	583.63	569.30	553.46	558.03	560.50	578.50	580.16
Dairy	302.65	331.18	340.56	337.46	335.80	338.74	341.52	346.20
Poultry	75.42	72.54	73.17	67.68	71.08	73.78	75.05	72.77
Eggs	55.24	61.71	59.96	66.71	70.80	54.73	59.27	55.02
Bakery and cereal	304.29	299.45	305.19	299.18	300.29	304.72	304.19	311.56
Fresh fruits	74.82	75.12	87.42	79.33	80.36	87.67	92.99	88.64
Fresh vegetables	114.07	120.77	135.63	118.80	141.76	149.05	128.13	123.59
Proc. fruits and veg.	187.40	189.59	197.23	190.60	192.51	196.39	197.89	202.18
Fats and oils	81.39	69.54	75.60	70.30	71.31	74.43	78.95	77.70
Miscellaneous	98.12	91.91	92.44	91.39	91.50	92.18	91.90	94.17
Total	1,876.08	1,895.44	1,936.51	1,874.91	1,913.45	1,932.19	1,948.39	1,952.00
Farm value								
Meat	347.51	313.94	312.57	280.43	296.03	314.02	319.76	320.49
Dairy	149.50	170.12	171.42	168.77	166.67	169.82	174.69	174.48
Poultry	44.21	39.63	40.59	34.83	38.57	42.35	43.23	38.21
Eggs	36.46	42.11	39.23	46.52	47.46	35.06	39.52	34.86
Bakery and cereal:								
All ingredients	56.60	46.11	39.33	38.93	39.92	39.08	37.38	40.93
Grain	39.30	32.74	25.15	26.02	25.93	23.62	23.80	27.24
Fresh fruits	22.80	21.18	25.72	23.97	23.25	23.93	27.60	28.09
Fresh vegetables	39.58	39.78	44.73	40.46	55.76	45.14	38.86	39.16
Proc. fruits and veg.	40.04	38.34	35.53	37.82	34.49	35.17	35.42	37.05
Fats and oils	27.76	22.57	28.81	24.87	27.05	32.77	26.14	29.30
Miscellaneous	19.64	13.82	12.50	12.03	12.52	12.66	11.84	12.99
Total	784.10	747.59	750.42	708.63	741.71	750.00	754.44	755.56
Farm-retail spread								
Meat	235.17	269.69	256.73	273.03	262.00	246.48	258.74	259.67
Dairy	153.15	161.06	169.14	168.69	169.13	168.92	166.83	171.72
Poultry	31.21	32.91	32.58	32.85	32.51	31.43	31.82	34.56
Eggs	18.78	19.60	20.73	20.19	23.34	19.67	19.75	20.16
Bakery and cereal	247.69	253.34	265.86	260.25	260.37	265.64	266.81	270.63
Fresh fruits	52.02	53.94	61.70	55.36	57.11	63.74	65.39	60.55
Fresh vegetables	74.49	80.99	90.90	78.34	86.00	103.91	89.27	84.43
Proc. fruits and veg.	147.36	154.25	161.70	152.78	158.02	161.22	162.47	165.13
Fats and oils	53.63	46.97	46.79	45.43	44.26	41.66	52.81	48.40
Miscellaneous	78.48	78.09	79.94	79.36	78.98	79.52	80.06	81.18
Total	1,091.98	1,147.85	1,186.09	1,166.28	1,171.74	1,182.19	1,193.95	1,196.44
Percent								
Farmer's share								
Meat	60	54	55	51	53	56	55	55
Dairy	49	51	50	50	50	50	51	50
Poultry	59	55	55	51	54	57	58	53
Eggs	66	68	65	70	67	64	67	63
Bakery and cereal:								
All ingredients	19	15	13	13	13	13	12	13
Grain	13	11	8	9	9	8	8	9
Fresh fruits	30	28	29	30	28	27	30	32
Fresh vegetables	34	33	33	34	39	30	30	32
Proc. fruits and veg.	21	20	18	20	18	18	18	18
Fats and oils	34	32	38	35	38	44	33	38
Miscellaneous	20	15	14	13	14	14	13	14
Average	42	39	39	38	39	39	39	39

¹ Annual rate. See footnote 1 on monthly farm-retail price spread table (page 23) for description of data. ² Preliminary. ³ Revised.

Livestock and Products: Prices, Supplies, and Use

Livestock and Products output and prices

Output	1976					1977					1978	
	II	III	IV	Annual		I	II	III	IV	Annual	I ¹	II ¹
Beef (mil. lb.)	6,145	6,618	6,412	25,667		6,285	6,162	6,320	6,217	24,984	6,200	6,100
Change (pct.) ²	+10	+11	+2	+8		-3	0	-5	-3	-3	-1	-1
Pork (mil. lb.)	2,847	3,014	3,669	12,488		3,293	3,186	3,074	3,499	13,052	3,400	3,500
Change (pct.) ²	-5	+18	+27	+8		+11	+12	+2	-5	+5	+3	+10
Veal (mil. lb.)	178	205	224	813		203	186	206	201	796	160	120
Change (pct.) ²	-2	-12	-9	-2		-1	+4	0	-10	-2	-21	-35
Lamb and mutton (mil. lb.)	82	92	92	361		90	86	84	81	341	85	80
Change (pct.) ²	-15	-12	-6	-10		-5	+5	-9	-12	-6	-6	-7
Red meats (mil. lb.)	9,252	9,929	10,397	39,329		9,871	9,620	9,684	9,998	39,173	9,845	9,800
Change (pct.) ²	+4	+12	+9	+8		+1	+4	-2	-4	0	0	+2
Broilers (mil. lb.)	2,314	2,372	2,186	8,988		2,156	2,399	2,424	2,255	9,234	2,310	2,570
Change (pct.) ²	+12	+14	+10	+13		+2	+4	+2	+3	+3	+7	+7
Turkeys (mil. lb.)	369	710	664	1,950		210	365	672	645	1,892	220	400
Change (pct.) ²	+28	+14	+5	+14		+1	-1	-5	-3	-3	+5	+10
Total meats (mil. lb.)	11,935	13,011	13,247	50,267		12,237	12,384	12,780	12,898	50,299	12,375	12,770
Change (pct.) ²	+6	+13	+9	+9		+2	+4	-2	-3	0	+1	+3
Eggs (mil. doz.)	1,344	1,342	1,360	5,404		1,330	1,338	1,334	1,400	5,402	1,375	1,370
Change (pct.) ²	+1	0	0	+1		-2	0	-1	+3	0	+3	+2
Milk (bil. lb.)	32.4	30.2	28.6	120.4		29.8	33.1	31.0	29.2	123.2	30.6	34.1
Change (pct.) ²	+4	+6	+4	+4		+2	+2	+3	+2	+2	+3	+3
Total livestock and products (1974=100)	104.7	108.2	107.4	105.6		103.1	107.5	107.6	106.5	106.2	104.8	110.4
Change (pct.) ²	+5.2	+9.2	+6.2	+6.7		+1.1	+2.7	-6	-1.0	+6	+1.6	+2.7
Prices												
Choice steers, Omaha (\$ per cwt.)	41.42	37.30	39.00	39.11		37.88	40.77	40.47	42.42	40.38	42.44	42.44
Barrows and gilts, 7-markets (\$ per cwt.)	49.19	43.88	34.25	43.11		39.08	40.87	43.85	41.38	41.30	42.44	36.38
Slaughter lambs, choice, San Angelo (\$ per cwt.)	58.63	43.54	45.81	49.87		52.98	55.76	51.88	56.50	54.28	53.55	56.58
Broilers, 9-city wholesale (cts. per lb.) ³	41.7	41.5	35.5	40.2		40.9	42.3	42.4	37.6	40.8	39.41	38.40
Turkeys, N.Y., wholesale (cts. per lb.) ⁴	48.2	48.5	49.0	48.8		50.2	51.5	53.1	61.3	54.0	54.56	52.54
Eggs, carton, Grade A large, N.Y. (cts. per doz)	63.1	71.8	78.4	70.3		74.9	57.8	61.5	58.9	63.3	53.55	48.50
Milk, all at farm, (\$ per cwt.)	9.26	9.66	9.86	9.66		9.54	9.38	9.73	10.20	9.71	10.00-10.10	9.90-10.00
Livestock prices received by farmers (1967=100)	185	175	165	177		172	174	178	177	175	180	176

¹ Forecast. ² Change from year-earlier. ³ Weighted average. ⁴ 8-16 pound young hens.

Dairy:

Items	Annual			1976	1977					
	1975	1976	1977	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Milk production:										
Total milk (mil. lb.)	115,326	120,356	123,231	9,678	10,715	10,410	9,907	9,902	9,497	9,838
Milk per cow (lb.)	10,352	10,893	11,220	877	977	949	903	903	866	896
Number of milk cows (thou.)	11,140	11,049	10,983	11,032	10,965	10,973	10,975	10,964	10,966	10,978
Milk prices, Minnesota-Wisconsin,										
3.5% fat (\$/cwt.) ¹	7.62	8.48	8.58	8.25	8.65	8.64	8.74	8.74	8.79	8.87
Price of 16% dairy ration (\$/ton)	134	141	140	145	141	132	128	125	129	135
Milk-feed price ratio (lb.) ²	1.40	1.53	1.60	1.55	1.57	1.69	1.80	1.84	1.75	1.69
Stocks, beginning										
Total milk equiv. (mil. lb.) ³	5,886	3,844	5,708	5,815	9,988	10,385	10,425	9,975	9,354	9,025
Commercial (mil. lb.)	5,576	3,719	5,299	5,621	7,058	6,978	6,710	6,030	5,404	5,149
Government (mil. lb.)	310	124	410	194	2,930	3,407	3,715	3,945	3,950	3,876
Imports, total milk equiv. (mil. lb.) ³	1,669	1,943	—	370	133	137	162	160	129	—
USDA net removals:										
Total milk equiv. (mil. lb.) ³	2,036	1,236	6,103	592.5	501.1	532.7	38.6	161.9	118.8	5.9
Butter:										
Production (mil. lb.)	983.8	978.6	—	92.5	84.2	78.2	75.5	84.9	81.8	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	49.2	10.9	47.1	47.3	196.8	208.4	207.7	203.4	198.3	194.6
Wholesale price, Grade A Chicago (cts./lb.)	79.4	92.0	98.4	90.8	100.7	100.7	100.7	100.7	100.9	101.6
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	63.4	39.4	222.4	20.0	16.0	13.5	.3	7.0	5.4	.1
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	951.0	919.0	—	82.8	74.5	72.9	88.7	81.9	77.1	—
American cheese:										
Production (mil. lb.)	1,654.6	2,062.4	—	169.1	176.2	162.7	142.8	145.2	136.0	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	420.9	307.8	411.4	414.1	514.3	528.9	531.9	499.0	454.0	438.5
Wholesale price, Wisconsin assembly pt. (cts./lb.)	86.6	96.3	96.8	92.8	97.1	97.1	98.3	98.3	98.8	100.1
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	68.2	38.0	148.3	18.0	16.8	24.0	2.9	1.4	.4	.1
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	1,717.1	1,934.5	—	163.4	156.0	151.3	169.4	195.1	151.9	—
Other cheese:										
Production (mil. lb.)	1,156.8	1,274.1	—	112.0	106.4	108.8	108.6	109.1	112.5	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	73.1	60.8	67.1	67.9	73.3	74.0	73.2	70.8	65.3	61.0
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	1,331.9	1,460.7	—	146.6	122.1	126.0	127.0	129.2	130.0	—
Nonfat dry milk:										
Production (mil. lb.)	1,001.5	926.2	—	73.7	120.7	100.6	78.4	71.5	65.9	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	293.2	468.9	480.6	479.7	579.2	619.5	653.2	685.9	689.5	673.9
Wholesale price, avg. manf. (cts./lb.)	63.3	63.5	—	62.5	67.9	67.9	68.0	68.0	68.0	—
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	394.4	157.1	464.3	17.6	67.8	62.7	38.3	26.4	22.0	20.3
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	697.0	724.0	—	51.6	51.5	57.6	60.9	64.5	53.7	—
Frozen dessert production (mil. gal.)⁴	1,183.9	1,152.7	—	73.6	118.9	121.9	105.0	85.4	78.9	—

¹ Manufacturing grade milk. ² Pounds of ration equal in value to 1 lb. of milk. ³ Milk equivalent, fat-solids basis. ⁴ Ice cream, ice milk, and sherbet.

Poultry and eggs:

Items	Annual			1976	1977					
	1975	1976	1977	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eggs										
Farm production (mil.)	64,379	64,849	—	5,545	5,304	5,373	5,327	5,596	5,514	—
Average number of layers on farms (mil.)	277	276	—	281	267	271	277	282	284	—
Rate of lay (eggs per layer)	233	235	—	19.7	19.9	19.8	19.2	19.9	19.4	—
Cartoned price, New York, grade A										
large (cts./doz.) ¹	63.9	70.3	63.3	83.9	62.4	61.4	60.8	56.0	56.6	64.0
Price of laying feed (\$/ton)	147	151	152	153	153	143	138	135	141	145
Egg-feed price ratio (lb.) ²	7.2	7.9	7.1	9.1	6.6	7.2	7.6	7.0	7.3	7.4
Stocks, beginning of period:										
Shell (thou. cases)	36	22	28	25	40	38	47	49	49	51
Frozen (mil. lb.)	54.2	36.3	26.1	25.5	31.6	35.1	34.8	33.8	33.1	31.1
Replacement chicks hatched (mil.)	45.4	49.2	—	36.6	37.4	37.8	37.1	37.0	34.1	—
Broilers										
Federally inspected slaughter, certified (mil. lb.)	7,966	8,987	—	699.2	745.5	870.4	808.2	775.5	719.8	—
Wholesale price, 9-city, (cts./lb.)	45.1	40.2	40.8	35.0	44.3	42.0	40.9	39.2	37.3	36.2
Price of broiler grower feed (\$/ton)	163	168	170	174	175	164	154	153	159	160
Broiler-feed price ratio (lb.) ²	3.2	2.8	2.8	2.2	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.5
Stocks, beginning of period (mil. lb.)	37.2	22.3	32.9	29.1	34.1	33.1	30.5	31.7	33.5	35.8
Average weekly placements of broiler chicks, 21 States (mil.)	57.2	58.9	61.5	60.0	66.9	63.8	62.1	63.2	63.1	66.2
Turkeys										
Federally inspected slaughter, certified (mil. lb.)	1,716	1,950	—	146.4	189.6	244.4	238.2	250.3	246.8	—
Wholesale price, New York, 8-16 lb. young hens (cts./lb.)	53.6	48.7	54.0	50.6	50.8	53.4	55.0	57.4	60.7	65.8
Price of turkey grower feed (\$/ton)	167	174	184	179	188	176	172	168	175	177
Turkey-feed price ratio (lb.) ²	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.6
Stocks, beginning of period (mil. lb.)	275.0	195.2	203.4	298.8	201.2	251.6	327.6	408.4	445.5	269.3
Poult hatched (mil.)	137.1	149.7	—	7.6	15.4	8.1	4.5	5.2	5.9	—

¹ Price of cartoned eggs to volume buyers for delivery to retailers; wholesale Price series discontinued June 1. ² Pounds of feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs or 1 lb. of broiler or turkey liveweight.

Meat animals:

Items	Annual			1976	1977					
	1975	1976	1977	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cattle on feed (7-States)										
Number on feed (thou. head) ¹	6,369	8,537	8,213	8,000	6,872	6,871	6,726	6,958	8,140	8,567
Placed on feed (thou. head) ²	18,095	18,976	20,817	1,780	1,494	1,511	1,829	2,886	2,048	2,067
Marketings (thou. head)	14,988	18,167	18,720	1,473	1,442	1,598	1,530	1,589	1,498	1,605
Other disappearance (thou. head)	939	1,133	1,383	94	55	58	67	115	123	102
Beef steer-corn price ratio, Omaha (bu.) ³	15.8	15.2	19.9	17.4	21.5	24.2	24.2	23.6	20.7	21.1
Hog-corn price ratio, Omaha (bu.) ³	16.9	16.5	20.2	16.4	23.8	26.4	24.1	22.6	19.2	21.4
Commercial slaughter (thou. head)										
Cattle	40,911	42,654	41,849	3,510	3,307	3,751	3,571	3,553	3,541	3,469
Steers	17,819	18,879	19,336	1,488	1,587	1,759	1,589	1,542	1,544	1,561
Heifers	10,438	12,158	11,747	969	900	1,066	1,086	1,048	945	933
Cows	11,557	10,619	9,860	979	744	840	814	884	974	909
Bulls and stags	1,097	998	906	74	76	86	82	78	78	66
Calves	5,209	5,350	5,527	490	421	485	475	474	473	450
Sheep and lambs	7,835	6,714	6,354	551	486	578	588	545	495	455
Hogs	68,687	73,784	77,296	6,880	5,120	6,411	6,762	6,768	7,195	6,523
Commercial production (mil. lb.)										
Beef	23,673	25,667	24,984	2,113	1,969	2,229	2,122	2,094	2,079	2,044
Veal	827	813	796	77	62	73	71	71	68	62
Lamb and mutton	399	361	341	31	25	29	30	29	27	25
Pork	11,586	12,488	13,052	1,170	869	1,074	1,131	1,150	1,241	1,108
Market prices										
Dol. per 100 pounds										
Slaughter cattle:										
Choice steers, Omaha	44.61	39.11	40.38	39.96	40.94	40.11	40.35	42.29	41.83	43.13
Utility cows, Omaha	21.09	25.31	25.32	21.60	25.23	25.38	26.12	24.89	23.80	25.02
Choice vealers, S. St. Paul	40.44	45.18	48.19	49.58	46.95	46.20	41.54	42.50	40.98	40.50
Feeder cattle:										
Choice, Kansas City, 600-700 lb.	33.91	39.40	40.19	36.23	40.64	41.99	40.85	40.82	39.94	41.33
Slaughter hogs:										
Barrows and gilts, No. 1&2, Omaha ⁴	50.12	44.70	42.10	39.03	46.62	44.81	41.71	41.40	40.43	45.38
Barrows and gilts, 7-markets	48.32	43.11	41.07	38.05	45.76	44.38	41.40	40.83	39.33	43.99
Feeder pigs:										
S. Mo. 40-50 lb. (per head)	44.80	36.54	35.42	24.04	36.90	39.84	37.46	34.94	32.32	30.38
Slaughter sheep and lambs:										
Lambs, Choice, San Angelo	44.45	49.87	54.28	47.69	50.42	51.46	53.75	55.69	55.06	58.75
Ewes, Good, San Angelo	15.34	17.69	19.19	16.88	14.58	16.75	19.62	19.69	20.88	25.75
Feeder lambs:										
Choice, San Angelo	41.40	51.28	55.12	51.19	47.33	50.75	54.31	55.75	63.19	68.83
Wholesale meat prices, Midwest⁵										
Choice steer beef, 600-700 lb.	72.55	60.99	62.69	62.52	63.65	62.49	63.04	65.87	65.47	68.10
Canner and Cutter cow beef	42.90	52.00	51.68	47.60	51.69	51.12	50.73	48.46	48.32	51.97
Pork loins, 8-14 lb.	92.69	86.45	83.04	73.37	91.66	85.21	85.52	85.60	76.95	88.70
Pork bellies, 12-14 lb.	78.52	65.27	54.19	45.71	63.55	63.96	55.04	49.15	43.79	51.32
Hams, skinned, 14-17 lb.	84.06	79.79	76.50	84.56	72.58	75.47	75.77	84.62	94.22	92.09

Items	Annual			1976		1977				1978
	1975	1976	1977	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I
Cattle on feed (23-States)										
Number on feed (thou. head) ¹	9,622	12,328	11,948	10,054	9,282	11,948	10,619	9,765	9,793	12,809
Placed on feed (thou. head) ²	24,685	25,508	27,657	5,702	8,762	5,614	6,007	6,479	9,557	—
Marketings (thou. head)	20,500	24,170	24,861	6,200	5,684	6,462	6,147	6,159	6,093	—
Other disappearance (thou. head)	1,479	1,718	1,935	274	412	481	714	292	448	—
Hogs and pigs (14-States):⁶										
Inventory (thou. head) ¹	47,170	41,855	47,120	46,235	48,885	47,120	44,100	46,640	50,000	49,310
Breeding (thou. head) ¹	6,283	6,368	6,788	7,071	6,828	6,788	7,016	7,352	7,307	7,477
Market (thou. head) ¹	40,887	35,487	40,332	39,164	42,057	40,332	37,084	39,288	42,693	41,833
Farrowings (thou. head)	8,417	9,996	10,663	2,524	2,524	2,304	2,893	2,716	2,720	⁷ 2,602
Pig crop (thou. head)	60,476	72,580	76,119	18,389	17,970	15,586	21,386	19,625	19,522	—

¹ Beginning of period. ² Other disappearance excluded in 1973; not comparable with 1974 and 1975. ³ Bushels of corn equal in value to 100 pounds liveweight. ⁴ 220-240 lb. ⁵ Prior to Oct. 1975, Chicago. ⁶ Quarters are Dec. preceding year-Feb. (II), Mar-May (III), June-Aug (III), and Sept-Nov (IV). ⁷ Intentions.

Wool:

Items	Annual			1976	1977					
	1974	1975	1976	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
U.S. wool price, Boston ¹ (cts./lb.)	176	150	182	188	183	183	182	182	182	182
Imported wool price, Boston ² (cts./lb.)	239	202	214	214	225	220	223	223	228	224
U.S. mill consumption, scoured										
Apparel wool (thou. lb.)	74,856	94,117	106,629	8,984	5,220	7,462	8,565	7,714	7,226	n.a.
Carpet wool (thou. lb.)	18,595	15,908	15,117	1,491	615	1,150	1,149	708	785	n.a.

¹ Wool price delivered at U.S. mills, clean basis. Graded Territory 64's (20.60-22.04 microns) staple 2 1/2" and up. Prior to January 1976 reported as: Territory fine, good French combing and staple. ² Wool Price delivered at U.S. mills, clean basis, Australian 64's, type 78, including duty (25.5 cents). Prior to January 1976 reported as: Australian 64's combing, excluding duty. ³ No quotations reported. n.a. Not available.

Crops and Products: Prices, Supplies, and Use

Supply and utilization of major crops^{1/}

Domestic measure ¹					Metric measure ²			
Commodity	1975/76	1976/77 estimated	1977/78		1975/76	1976/77 estimated	1977/78	
			Projected	Probable variability *			Projected	Probable variability *
Wheat:								
Area			Mil. acres				Mil. hectares	
Planted	74.8	80.2	74.8	—	30.3	32.5	30.3	—
Harvested	69.4	70.8	66.2	—	28.1	28.7	26.8	—
			Bu. per acre				Metric tons per hectare	
Yield per harvested unit	30.6	30.3	30.6	—	2.06	2.06	2.06	—
			Mil. bu.				Mil. metric tons	
Beginning stocks	435	665	1,112	—	11.8	18.1	30.3	—
Production	2,122	2,142	2,026	—	57.8	58.3	55.1	—
Imports	2	3	2	—	.1	.1	.1	—
Supply, total	2,559	2,810	3,140	—	69.6	76.5	85.5	—
Domestic	721	748	830	+35 to -35	19.6	20.4	22.6	+1.0 to -1.0
Exports	1,173	950	1,100	+100 to -100	31.9	25.8	29.9	+2.7 to -2.7
Use, total	1,894	1,698	1,930	+125 to -125	51.5	46.2	52.5	+3.4 to -3.4
Ending stocks	665	1,112	1,210	+125 to -125	18.1	30.3	32.9	+3.4 to -3.4
			Dol. per bu.				Dol. per metric ton	
Price received by farmers	3.56	2.73	² 2.25-2.35		130.81	100.31	³ 83-86	
Price, Kansas City, No. 1 HRW	3.74	2.88	⁴ 2.52		137.42	105.82	⁴ 92.59	
Rice:								
Area			Mil. acres				Mil. hectares	
Allotment	1.80	1.80	1.80	—	.73	.73	.73	—
Planted	2.83	2.49	2.26	—	1.15	1.01	.92	—
Harvested	2.82	2.48	2.25	—	1.14	1.00	.91	—
			Lb. per acre				Metric tons per hectare	
Yield per harvested unit	4,558	4,663	4,412	—	5.11	5.23	4.95	—
			Mil. cwt.				Mil. metric tons	
Beginning stocks	7.1	36.9	39.7	—	.32	1.67	1.81	—
Production	128.4	115.6	99.2	—	5.82	5.24	4.50	—
Imports	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supply, total	135.5	152.9	138.9	—	6.15	6.92	6.30	—
Domestic	40.2	42.8	45.3	+2 to -2	1.82	1.94	2.05	+0.09 to -.09
Exports	56.5	65.6	68.0	+5 to -5	2.56	2.98	3.08	+0.23 to -.23
Use, total	96.7	108.4	113.3	+5 to -5	4.39	4.92	5.14	+0.23 to -.23
Ending stocks	36.9	39.7	25.6	+5 to -5	1.67	1.81	1.16	+0.23 to -.23
Difference unaccounted	+1.9	+4.4	—	—	+0.9	+2.0	—	—
			Dol. per cwt.				Dol. per metric ton	
Price received by farmers	8.35	7.02	² 9.00-9.50		184.08	154.76	³ 198-209	
Price, long-grain milled, S.W. La.	17.20	14.60	⁴ 19.23		379.19	321.87	⁴ 423.94	
Feed grains: ⁵								
Area			Mil. acres				Mil. hectares	
Planted	122.5	128.7	128.1	—	49.6	52.1	51.8	—
Harvested	104.2	106.2	107.0	—	42.2	43.6	43.3	—
			Tons per acre				Metric tons per hectare	
Yield per harvested unit	1.95	2.01	2.08	—	4.37	4.50	4.65	—
			Mil. short tons				Mil. metric tons	
Beginning stocks	16.9	19.0	33.0	—	15.3	17.2	29.9	—
Production	203.5	213.2	222.0	—	184.6	193.4	201.5	—
Imports	.5	.4	.3	—	.5	.4	.3	—
Supply, total	220.9	232.6	255.3	—	200.4	211.0	231.7	—
Feed	128.0	124.1	131.3	+6 to -6	116.2	112.6	119.1	+5 to -5
Food, seed, and industrial uses	18.8	19.7	20.5	—	17.0	17.9	18.6	—
Domestic, total	146.8	143.8	151.8	+6 to -6	133.2	130.5	137.7	+5 to -5
Exports	55.1	55.8	56.9	+3 to -3	50.0	50.6	51.6	+3 to -3
Use, total	201.9	199.6	208.7	+7 to -7	183.2	181.1	189.3	+6 to -6
Ending stocks	19.0	33.0	46.6	+6 to -6	17.2	29.9	42.4	+5 to -5

Supply and utilization of major crops¹—Continued

Commodity	Domestic measure ²				Metric measure ³			
	1975/76	1976/77 estimated	1977/78		1975/76	1976/77 estimated	1977/78	
			Projected	Probable variability ⁴			Projected	Probable variability ⁴
Corn:								
Mil. acres								
Area								
Planted	78.6	84.4	82.7	—	31.8	34.2	33.5	—
Harvested	67.5	71.3	70.0	—	27.3	28.9	28.3	—
Bu. per acre								
Yield per harvested unit	86.4	87.9	90.8	—	5.42	5.51	5.71	—
Mil. bu.								
Beginning stocks	361	399	884	—	9.2	10.1	22.5	—
Production	5,829	6,266	6,357	—	148.0	159.2	161.5	—
Imports	2	3	1	—	.1	.1	(⁴)	—
Supply, total	6,192	6,668	7,242	—	157.3	169.4	184.0	—
Feed	3,592	3,587	3,825	+150 to -150	91.3	91.1	97.1	+3.8 to -3.8
Food, seed, and industrial uses	490	513	535	+10 to -10	12.4	13.0	13.6	+2 to -2
Domestic, total	4,082	4,100	4,360	+150 to -150	103.7	104.1	110.7	+3.8 to -3.8
Exports	1,711	1,684	1,750	+100 to -100	43.5	42.8	44.4	+2.5 to -2.5
Use, total	5,793	5,784	6,110	+150 to -150	147.2	146.9	155.2	+3.8 to -3.8
Ending stocks	399	884	132	+150 to -150	10.1	22.5	28.8	+3.8 to -3.8
Dol. per bu.								
Price received by farmers	2.54	³ 2.15	2.00-2.10	—	99.99	³ 84.64	79.83	—
Price, Chi., No. 2 yellow	2.75	2.31	⁴ 2.06	—	108.26	90.94	⁴ 81.10	—
Soybeans:								
Mil. acres								
Area								
Planted	54.6	60.2	59.1	—	22.1	20.3	23.9	—
Harvested	53.6	49.4	57.9	—	21.7	20.0	23.4	—
Bu. per acre								
Yield per harvested unit	28.9	26.1	29.6	—	1.94	1.76	1.99	—
Mil. bu.								
Beginning stocks	188	245	103	—	5.1	6.7	2.8	—
Production	1,547	1,288	1,716	—	42.1	35.1	46.7	—
Supply, total	1,735	1,533	1,819	—	47.2	41.7	49.5	—
Crushings	865	790	860	+40 to -40	23.5	21.5	23.4	+1.1 to -1.1
Exports	555	564	610	+35 to -35	15.1	15.3	16.6	+1.0 to -1.0
Seed, feed, and residual	70	76	79	—	1.9	2.1	2.2	—
Use, total	1,490	1,430	1,549	+50 to -50	40.6	38.9	42.2	+1.4 to -1.4
Ending stocks	245	103	270	+50 to -50	6.7	2.8	7.3	+1.4 to -1.4
Dol. per bu.								
Price received by farmers	4.92	³ 6.81	5.25-5.75	—	180.78	³ 250	193-211	—
Price, Chi., No. 1 yellow	5.25	7.36	⁴ 5.48	—	192.90	270.43	⁴ 201.36	—
Soybean oil:								
Mil. lb.								
Beginning stocks	561	1,251	767	—	254	567	348	—
Production	9,630	8,578	9,538	+400 to -400	4,368	3,891	4,326	+181 to -181
Supply, total	10,191	9,829	10,305	—	4,623	4,458	4,674	—
Domestic	7,964	7,515	7,835	+400 to -400	3,612	3,409	3,554	+181 to -181
Exports	976	1,547	1,650	+200 to -200	443	702	748	+91 to -91
Use, total	8,940	9,062	9,485	+300 to -300	4,055	4,111	4,302	+136 to -136
Ending stocks	1,251	767	820	+200 to -200	567	348	372	+91 to -91
Cts. per lb.								
Price, crude, Decatur	18.3	23.9	16-22	—	40.3	52.9	35.3-48.5	—
Thou. metric tons								
Beginning stocks	561	1,251	767	—	254	567	348	—
Production	9,630	8,578	9,538	+400 to -400	4,368	3,891	4,326	+181 to -181
Supply, total	10,191	9,829	10,305	—	4,623	4,458	4,674	—
Domestic	7,964	7,515	7,835	+400 to -400	3,612	3,409	3,554	+181 to -181
Exports	976	1,547	1,650	+200 to -200	443	702	748	+91 to -91
Use, total	8,940	9,062	9,485	+300 to -300	4,055	4,111	4,302	+136 to -136
Ending stocks	1,251	767	820	+200 to -200	567	348	372	+91 to -91
Cts. per kilogram								
Price, crude, Decatur	18.3	23.9	16-22	—	40.3	52.9	35.3-48.5	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Supply and utilization of major crops¹—Continued

Domestic measure ²					Metric measure ²			
Commodity	1975/76	1976/77 estimated	1977/78		1975/76	1976/77 estimated	1977/78	
			Projected	Probable variability *			Projected	Probable variability *
Soybean meal:								
		Thou. short tons				Thou. metric tons		
Beginning stocks	358	355	228	—	325	322	207	—
Production	20,754	18,488	20,782	+900 to -900	18,828	16,772	18,453	+816 to -816
Supply, total	21,112	18,843	21,010	—	19,152	17,094	19,060	—
Domestic	15,612	14,056	15,900	+700 to -700	14,163	12,751	14,424	+635 to -635
Exports	5,145	4,559	4,700	+300 to -300	4,667	4,136	4,264	+272 to -272
Use, total	20,757	18,615	20,600	+800 to -800	18,830	16,887	18,688	+726 to -726
Ending stocks	355	228	410	+100 to -100	322	207	372	+91 to -91
		Dol. per short ton				Dol. per metric ton		
Price, bulk, Decatur, 44%	147.77	199.80	140-180	—	162.90	220.26	132-176	—
Cotton: ⁷								
		Mil. acres				Mil. hectares		
Area								
Planted	9.5	11.7	13.7	—	3.8	4.7	5.5	—
Harvested	8.8	10.9	13.3	—	3.6	4.4	5.4	—
		Lb. per acre				Metric tons per hectare		
Yield per harvested unit	453	465	525	—	.51	.52	.59	—
		Mil. 480-lb. bales				Mil. metric tons		
Beginning stocks	^a 5.7	^a 3.7	2.9	—	^a 1.2	^a .8	.6	—
Production	8.3	10.6	14.5	—	1.8	2.3	3.2	—
Supply, total ⁹	14.1	14.3	17.5	—	3.1	3.1	3.8	—
Mill use	7.3	6.7	6.8	+3 to -3	1.6	1.5	1.5	+1 to -1
Exports	3.3	4.8	4.7	+5 to -5	.7	1.0	1.0	+1 to -1
Use, total	10.6	11.5	11.5	+8 to -8	2.3	2.5	2.5	+2 to -2
Difference unaccounted ¹⁰ . . . . .	.2	.1	.2	—	(^e)	(^e)	(^e)	—
Ending stocks	¹ 3.7	2.9	6.2	+4 to -4	^a .8	.6	1.4	+1 to -1
		Cts. per lb.				Cts. per kilogram		
Price received by farmers	51.3	³ 64.1	¹¹ 52.0	—	113.1	³ 141.3	¹¹ 114.6	—
Price, SLM, 1-1/16 in., spot	58.0	70.9	—	—	127.9	156.3	—	—

¹Marketing year beginning June 1 for wheat, barley, and oats, August 1 for cotton and rice, September 1 for soybeans, and October 1 for corn, sorghum, and soybean oil and meal. ²Conversion factors: Hectare (ha.)=2.471 acres; and 1 metric ton=2,204.622 pounds, 36.7437 bushels of wheat or soybeans, 39.3679 bushels of corn or sorghum, 49.9296 bushels of barley, 68.8944 bushels of oats, 22.046 cwt. of rice, and 4.59 480-pound bales of cotton. ³Season average estimate. ⁴Average for beginning of marketing year through December 1977. ⁵Corn, sorghum, oats, and barley. ⁶Less than 0.05. ⁷Upland and extra long staple. ⁸Based on Census Bureau data. ⁹Includes imports. ¹⁰Difference between ending stocks based on Census Bureau data and preceding season's supply less distribution. ¹¹Average to January 1, 1978.

*The "probable variability" reflects the ESCS estimate of "root mean square error" for Production. The chances are about 2 out of 3 that the final outcome would fall within the indicated range. Comparable estimates of variability are used for other items in the supply and utilization balance.

Feed grains:	Marketing year ¹			1976	1977					
	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wholesale prices:										
Corn, No. 2 yellow, Chicago (\$/bu.)	3.12	2.75	2.30	2.44	2.05	1.78	1.80	1.84	2.14	2.19
Sorghum, No. 2 yellow, Kansas City (\$/cwt.)	5.04	4.46	3.49	3.77	3.15	2.73	2.78	3.05	3.40	3.36
Barley, feed, Minneapolis (\$/bu.)	2.58	2.38	2.34	2.05	1.63	1.50	1.58	1.66	1.65	1.70
Barley, malting, Minneapolis (\$/bu.) ²	4.16	3.52	3.13	2.95	2.02	1.92	2.15	2.25	2.36	2.32
Exports:										
Corn (mil. bu.)	1,149	1,711	1,684	137	117	122	138	120	144	*149
Feed grains (mil. short tons) ³	39.4	55.1	55.8	4.7	4.1	4.1	4.6	3.8	4.6	*5.0
	Marketing year ¹			1976			1977			
	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	Apr-May	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-May	June-Sept	Oct-Dec
Corn:										
Stocks, beginning (mil. bu.)	483	359	399	2,833	1,867	399	4,890	3,293	2,365	884
Domestic use:										
Feed (mil. bu.)	3,191	3,592	3,587	554	776	1,158	1,070	550	808	1,260
Food, seed, ind. (mil. bu.)	450	490	513	93	160	121	127	96	169	126
Feed grains: ³										
Stocks, beginning (mil short tons)	23.7	16.9	19.0	95.8	62.9	29.8	163.8	109.2	77.4	47.8
Domestic use:										
Feed (mil. short tons)	115.6	128.0	124.1	19.5	27.4	40.9	36.1	18.5	25.2	43.3
Food, seed, ind. (mil. short tons)	17.7	18.8	19.7	3.7	6.1	4.4	4.8	4.2	6.3	4.5

¹Beginning October 1 for corn and sorghum; June 1 for oats and barley. ²No. 3 or better, 65% or better plump beginning October 1977. ³Aggregated data for corn, sorghum, oats and barley. *Based on Inspections for Export.

Food grains:

	Marketing year ¹			1976	1977 ²					
	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wholesale Prices:										
Wheat, No. 1 HRW, Kansas City (\$/bu.) ³	4.20	3.74	2.88	2.64	2.35	2.31	2.47	2.56	2.81	2.80
Wheat, DNS, Minneapolis (\$/bu.) ³	4.57	3.74	2.96	2.70	2.29	2.22	2.51	2.61	2.71	2.68
Flour, Kansas City (\$/cwt.)	10.19	9.25	7.21	6.84	5.85	5.91	6.09	6.32	6.58	6.49
Flour, Minneapolis (\$/cwt.)	11.40	10.41	8.34	7.84	6.59	6.69	7.02	7.19	7.34	7.20
Rice, S.W. La. (\$/cwt.) ³	21.50	17.20	14.60	13.60	16.25	15.95	16.20	17.75	22.10	24.15
Wheat:										
Exports (mil. bu.)	1,018	1,173	950	60	88	97	115	72	61	—
Mill grind (mil. bu.)	538	572	593	47	44	52	49	49	50	—
Wheat flour production (mil. cwt.)	239	255	263	21	19	23	22	22	22	—

	Marketing year ¹			1976	1977					
	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	Apr-May	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-May	June-Sept	Oct-Dec
Wheat:										
Stocks, beginning (mil. bu.)	340	435	664	936	664	2,186	1,780	1,388	1,111	2,397
Domestic use:										
Food (mil. bu.)	521	559	553	89	188	144	138	83	182	—
Feed and seed (mil. bu.) ⁴	165	176	202	29	39	42	75	46	178	—
Exports (mil. bu.)	1,019	1,173	950	154	399	220	179	152	382	—

¹ Beginning June 1 for wheat and August 1 for rice. ² Ordinary protein. ³ Long-grain, milled basis. ⁴ Feed use approximated by residual.

Vegetables:

	Annual			1976	1977					
	1975	1976	1977	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wholesale Prices:										
Potatoes, white, f.o.b. East (\$/cwt.)	5.65	5.90	5.62	4.82	5.06	4.07	3.39	4.46	4.21	4.05
Iceberg lettuce (\$/cwt.) ¹	2.70	3.57	3.23	2.82	3.12	3.06	3.68	3.96	5.41	2.78
Tomatoes (\$/cwt.) ²	5.81	6.44	6.61	6.73	7.83	5.64	5.29	5.84	11.62	7.48
Wholesale Price index, 10 canned										
veg. (1967=100)	168	160	170	170	176	169	169	169	168	166
Grower price index, fresh commercial										
veg. (1967=100)	173	173	198	172	167	162	168	183	210	166

¹ Std. carton 24's, f.o.b. shipping point. ² 2 layers, 5 x 6-6 x 6, f.o.b. Fla.-Cal.

Fruit:

	Annual			1976	1977					
	1975	1976	1977	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wholesale Price indexes:										
Fresh fruit (1967=100)	157.8	160.4	177.5	162.3	172.7	184.0	192.1	183.6	176.5	160.0
Dried fruit (1967=100)	213.4	234.9	338.4	356.7	353.3	353.3	356.9	283.0	286.3	286.3
Canned fruit and juice (1967=100)	173.8	174.4	190.4	180.0	190.5	191.0	192.8	194.5	198.8	201.0
Frozen fruit and juice (1967=100)	155.5	156.2	196.5	147.4	194.1	205.7	212.6	212.6	225.9	228.6
F.o.b. shipping point prices:										
Apples, Yakima Valley (\$/cwt.) ¹	7.36	7.46	9.11	8.45	n.a.	n.a.	9.15	9.28	9.27	9.50
Pears, Yakima Valley (\$/box) ²	6.63	7.35	6.94	6.50	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7.49	7.87	8.08
Oranges, U.S. avg. (\$/box)	6.76	6.72	7.44	6.93	7.98	9.04	9.10	11.66	9.91	9.53
Grapefruit, U.S. avg. (\$/box)	6.18	5.76	6.34	5.91	6.98	7.33	6.80	7.87	6.23	6.26
Stocks, beginning:										
Fresh apples (mil. lb.)	14,163.8	12,180.3	14,343.3	2,769.0	167.0	57.3	14.2	1,035.3	3,142.2	2,720.4
Fresh pears (mil. lb.)	2,006.3	1,546.5	1,739.5	280.3	.3	48.2	159.9	398.9	239.4	205.5
Frozen fruit (mil. lb.)	6,455.9	5,603.6	6,281.2	547.9	455.6	585.5	621.6	632.5	677.8	628.5
Frozen fruit juices (mil. lb.)	14,169.7	14,878.1	11,751.9	1,002.7	1,189.5	1,092.8	895.8	780.4	679.1	545.7

¹ Red Delicious, regular storage, Washington extra fancy, carton tray pack. 80-125's. ² D'Anjou pears, regular storage, Washington wrapped, U.S. No. 1, 90-135's. n.a. not available.

Cotton:

	Marketing year ¹			1976	1977					
	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
U.S. price, SLM, 1-1/16 in. (cts./lb.) ²	41.7	58.0	70.9	73.1	58.2	52.5	49.3	49.1	48.0	48.4
Northern Europe prices:										
Index (cts./lb.) ³	52.5	65.3	81.7	84.0	67.1	62.7	60.0	59.2	57.9	—
U.S., SM 1-1/16 in. (cts./lb.) ⁴	56.4	71.4	82.4	84.7	66.5	63.6	62.1	61.3	59.6	—
U.S. mill consumption (thou. bales)	5,833.7	7,227.7	6,672.0	582.4	407.7	510.2	625.9	528.8	519.9	—
Exports (thou. bales)	3,925.9	3,311.3	4,783.6	394.3	294.5	189.5	209.2	155.2	347.5	—

¹ Beginning August 1. ² Average spot market. ³ Liverpool Outlook "A" index; average of five lowest priced of 10 selected growths. ⁴ Memphis territory growths.

Fats and oils:

	Marketing year ¹			1976	1977					
	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Soybeans:										
Wholesale Price, No. 1 yellow, Chicago (\$/bu.) . . .	6.33	5.25	7.36	6.86	6.29	5.66	5.21	5.05	5.77	5.87
Crushings (mil. bu.)	701.3	865.1	790.2	72.7	50.6	49.1	51.9	75.8	85.2	86.6
Processing margin (\$/bu.) ² . . . . .	.17	.16	.19	.20	.14	.28	.42	.14	.26	.26
Exports (mil. bu.)	420.7	555.1	564.0	56.7	27.2	18.1	15.0	77.6	87.7	—
Soybean oil:										
Wholesale Price, crude, Decatur (cts./lb.)	30.7	18.3	23.9	21.0	23.8	21.1	19.2	18.8	21.0	22.6
Production (mil. lb.)	7,376.2	969.9	8,578	805.7	566.6	553.6	578.2	821.9	922.3	931.2
Domestic disappearance (mil. lb.)	6,518.5	7,906.1	7,516	660.1	544.4	569.3	679.6	716.5	717.5	—
Exports (mil. lb.)	1,028.3	975.8	1,547	85.2	157.8	72.2	66.1	109.0	185.6	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	793.5	560.6	1,251	1,432.0	1,168.4	1,032.0	937.3	766.6	752.1	765.6
Soybean meal:										
Wholesale price, 44% protein, Decatur (\$/ton)	130.86	147.77	199.80	197.60	162.00	140.30	143.60	135.00	161.70	160.10
Production (thou. ton)	16,701.5	20,754.2	18,488	1,741.3	1,211.3	1,187.0	1,243.1	1,781.4	2,017.3	2,043.6
Domestic disappearance (thou. ton)	12,501.3	15,551.6	14,056	1,344.6	956.9	1,034.9	992.6	1,500.8	1,506.4	—
Exports (thou. ton)	4,298.8	5,144.8	4,559	464.8	244.5	276.1	292.6	229.2	533.9	—
Stocks, beginning (thou. ton)	507.3	358.3	3,559	427.7	390.7	399.0	270.4	228.3	270.0	239.8
Margarine, wholesale price, Chicago (cts./lb.)	44.3	37.9	31.4	33.0	42.4	40.3	38.5	37.4	36.9	36.1

¹ Beginning September 1 for soybeans; October 1 for soy meal and oil; calendar year 1974, 1975, and 1976 for margarine. ² Spot basis, Illinois shipping points.

Sugar:

	Annual			1976	1977					
	1975	1976	1977	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wholesale Price, N.Y. (\$/cwt.) ¹	22.47	13.31	³ 10.99	10.22	10.15	11.21	10.41	10.23	—	—
U.S. deliveries (thou. short tons) ^{1, 2}	9,974	10,856	⁴ 11,175	823	975	1,127	1,001	913	⁴ 954	⁴ 801

¹ Raw value. ² Excludes Hawaii. ³ Ten month average. ⁴ Preliminary.

Tobacco:

	Annual			1976	1977					
	1975	1976	1977	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Prices at auctions:										
Flue-cured (cts./lb.) ¹	99.8	110.4	117.9	—	88.7	115.6	131.7	115.2	100.2	—
Burley (cts./lb.) ¹	105.6	114.2	² 119.9	114.5	—	—	—	—	121.4	118.3
Domestic consumption³										
Cigarettes (bil.)	588.3	⁴ 617.9	⁵ 595.0	43.7	43.3	56.2	49.1	50.8	—	—
Large cigars (mil.)	5,692	⁴ 5,268	⁵ 5,000	376.9	361.2	405.1	413.6	461.2	—	—

¹ Crop year July-June for flue-cured, October-September for burley. ² Through January 17, 1978. ³ Taxable removals. ⁴ Subject to revision. ⁵ Estimated.

Coffee:

	Annual			1976	1977p					
	1975	1976	1977p	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Composite green price, N.Y. (cts./lb.)	71.76	142.48	256.39	207.85	246.15	240.17	236.02	221.70	228.51	201.15
Imports, green bean equivalent (mil. lb.) ¹	2,767	2,717	1,950	254	115	104	100	78	125p	n.a.
Roastings (mil. lb.)²										
	1975	1976	1977p	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
	2,454	2,519	1,775	668	510	611	629	430	311	n.a.

¹ Green and Processed coffee. ² Instant soluble and roasted coffee. p Preliminary. n.a. not available.

Transportation Data

Rail rates, grain and fruit and vegetable shipments

	Annual			1977						
	1975	1976	1977	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rail freight rate index ¹										
All products (1969=100)	169.4	186.6	199.1	191.6	198.4	198.4	198.5	198.5	198.6	207.8
Farm products (1969=100)	165.0	182.7	191.3	187.7	190.6	190.6	190.6	191.0	191.0	200.1
Food products (1969=100)	168.5	185.1	195.3	189.5	194.3	194.6	194.7	194.7	194.8	203.9
Rail carloadings of grain (thou. cars) ²	22.8	25.5	24.0	18.5	25.9	24.6	23.6	26.7	26.6	22.7
Barge shipments of grain (mil. bu.) ³	23.0	30.4	29.3	25.1	31.0	34.8	28.1	32.3	35.3	27.0
Fresh fruit and vegetable shipments										
Rail (thou. carlots) ^{3, 4}	3.8	3.3	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.4	1.6
Truck (thou. carlots) ^{3, 4}	13.9	16.0	15.4	14.5	15.5	13.6	12.3	13.7	14.5	15.3

¹ Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. ² Weekly average, from Association of American Railroads. ³ Weekly average; from Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA. ⁴ Preliminary data for 1977.

General Economic Data

Gross national product and related data

Items	Annual			1976				1977			
	1975	1976	1977	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IVp
\$ Bil. (Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates)											
Gross national product ¹	1,528.8	1,706.5	1,890.4	1,651.2	1,691.9	1,727.3	1,755.4	1,810.8	1,869.9	1,915.9	1,966.1
Personal consumption expenditures	980.4	1,094.0	1,210.1	1,056.0	1,078.5	1,102.2	1,139.0	1,172.4	1,194.0	1,218.9	1,255.3
Durable goods	132.9	158.9	179.4	153.3	156.7	159.3	166.3	177.0	178.6	177.6	184.6
Nondurable goods	409.3	442.7	480.1	430.4	437.1	444.7	458.8	466.6	474.4	481.8	497.7
Clothing and shoes	70.2	76.3	82.6	74.2	74.3	76.9	79.9	79.3	80.4	83.3	87.5
Food and beverages	209.5	225.5	246.3	219.3	223.9	227.0	232.0	237.9	244.8	248.3	254.2
Services	438.2	492.3	550.6	472.4	484.6	498.2	513.9	528.8	541.1	559.5	572.9
Gross private domestic investment	189.1	243.3	294.3	231.3	244.4	254.3	243.4	271.8	294.9	303.6	307.0
Fixed investment	200.6	230.0	276.6	216.8	226.1	232.8	244.3	258.0	273.2	280.0	295.1
Nonresidential	149.1	161.9	185.6	155.4	159.8	164.9	167.6	177.0	182.4	187.5	195.5
Residential	51.5	68.0	90.9	61.4	66.3	67.8	76.7	81.0	90.8	92.5	99.5
Change in business inventories	-11.5	13.3	17.8	14.5	18.3	21.5	-9	13.8	21.7	23.6	11.9
Net exports of goods and services	20.4	7.8	-9.0	10.2	10.2	7.9	3.0	-8.2	-9.7	-7.5	-10.8
Exports	147.3	162.9	175.6	153.9	160.6	168.4	168.5	170.4	178.1	179.9	174.3
Imports	126.9	155.1	184.7	143.7	150.4	160.6	165.6	178.6	187.7	187.4	185.1
Government purchases of goods and services	338.9	361.4	395.0	353.6	358.9	363.0	370.0	374.9	390.6	400.9	413.6
Federal	123.3	130.1	145.4	127.6	128.5	130.2	134.2	136.3	143.6	148.1	153.8
State and local	215.6	231.2	249.5	225.9	230.4	232.7	235.8	238.5	247.0	252.9	259.8
1972 \$ Bil. (Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates)											
Gross national product	1,202.1	1,274.7	1,337.6	1,256.0	1,271.5	1,283.7	1,287.4	1,311.0	1,330.7	1,347.4	1,361.4
Personal consumption expenditures	775.1	821.3	860.3	807.2	815.5	822.7	839.8	850.4	854.1	860.4	876.4
Durable goods	112.7	127.5	138.0	125.4	126.6	127.1	130.7	136.9	137.9	136.5	140.8
Nondurable goods	307.6	321.6	333.3	316.1	319.3	321.5	329.4	329.7	330.0	332.4	340.9
Clothing and shoes	61.5	64.7	67.4	63.9	63.4	64.7	65.8	65.5	66.0	67.5	70.6
Food and beverages	151.9	159.7	167.6	156.1	158.6	160.1	163.9	165.4	166.4	167.6	170.9
Services	354.8	372.2	389.0	365.6	369.6	374.0	379.7	383.8	386.3	391.4	394.7
Gross private domestic investment	141.6	173.0	195.6	168.1	175.2	179.4	169.2	186.7	197.2	200.8	197.6
Fixed investment	151.5	164.5	184.0	158.4	163.1	165.6	171.0	177.0	184.0	185.1	190.0
Nonresidential	112.7	116.8	127.1	113.7	115.9	118.5	119.0	124.3	126.4	127.6	130.2
Residential	38.8	47.7	56.9	44.8	47.1	47.1	52.0	52.7	57.6	57.5	59.8
Change in business inventories	-9.9	8.5	11.6	9.7	12.1	13.8	-1.8	9.7	13.2	15.7	7.7
Net exports of goods and services	22.5	16.0	10.7	16.8	16.4	17.0	13.8	10.6	9.4	12.2	10.6
Exports	89.9	95.8	98.0	93.1	95.2	97.9	96.9	96.9	98.5	99.8	96.8
Imports	67.4	79.8	87.3	76.3	78.9	80.9	83.1	86.3	89.1	87.6	86.2
Government purchases of goods and services	263.0	264.4	271.1	263.9	264.4	264.6	264.6	263.3	270.0	274.0	276.8
Federal	96.7	96.5	101.4	96.4	96.1	96.7	97.1	97.0	101.1	103.3	104.1
State and local	166.3	167.9	169.7	167.5	168.4	168.0	167.5	166.4	168.9	170.7	172.8
New plant and equipment expenditures (\$ bil.)	112.78	120.49	137.02	114.72	118.12	122.55	125.22	130.16	134.24	140.38	142.38
Implicit price deflator for GNP (1972=100)	127.18	133.88	141.32	131.47	133.06	134.56	136.35	138.13	140.52	142.19	144.34
Disposable income (\$ bil.)	1,084.4	1,185.8	1,308.6	1,153.3	1,174.1	1,193.3	1,222.6	1,252.4	1,292.5	1,323.8	1,365.9
Disposable income (1972 \$ bil.)	857.3	890.3	930.3	881.5	887.8	890.7	901.5	908.4	924.5	934.4	953.6
Per capita disposable income (\$)	5,077	5,511	6,035	5,374	5,462	5,540	5,665	5,793	5,967	6,098	6,279
Per capita disposable income (1972 \$)	4,014	4,137	4,290	4,107	4,130	4,135	4,177	4,202	4,268	4,305	4,383
U.S. population, tot. incl. military abroad (mil.)	213.6	215.1	216.8	214.6	214.9	215.4	215.8	216.2	216.6	217.1	217.5
Civilian population (mil.)	211.4	213.0	214.7	212.5	212.8	213.2	213.7	214.1	214.5	214.9	215.4

See footnotes at end of next table.

Selected monthly indicators:

Items	Annual			1976		1977					
	1975	1976	1977p	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Monthly data seasonally adjusted except as noted											
Industrial production, total ¹ (1967=100)	117.8	129.8	137.1	133.0	138.7	138.2	138.5	138.8	139.3p	139.6p	
Manufacturing (1967=100)	116.3	129.5	—	132.5	138.5	138.6	139.0	139.2	139.6p	140.4p	
Durable (1967=100)	109.3	121.7	—	125.0	131.6	131.3	131.7	132.3	132.2p	133.0p	
Nondurable (1967=100)	126.4	140.9	—	143.3	148.6	149.4	149.5	149.4	150.3p	151.1p	
Leading economic indicators ¹ (1967=100)	114.1	124.7	131.1	127.7	130.0	132.3	133.1	134.2	134.3p	135.3p	
Employment ² (Mil. persons)	84.8	87.5	90.5	88.4	90.6	90.8	91.1	91.2	92.2	92.6	
Unemployment rate ² (%)	8.5	7.7	7.0	7.8	6.9	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.7	7.4	
Personal Income ³ (\$bil. annual rate)	1,253.4	1,382.7	1,536.1	1,450.2	1,539.2	1,549.0	1,561.3	1,583.8	1,599.6	1,617.9p	
Hourly earnings in manufacturing ⁴ (\$)	4.81	5.19	5.63	5.42	5.65	5.65	5.74	5.78	5.81p	5.87p	
Money stock (daily average) ⁵ (\$bil.)	\$294.8	\$312.4	\$335.4	312.4	326.8	328.4	330.4	333.7	333.2	335.4p	
Time and savings deposits (daily average) ⁵ (\$bil.)	\$451.7	\$491.1	\$545.8	491.1	519.5	522.5	525.8	532.2	540.3	545.8p	
Three-month Treasury bill rate ⁶ (%)	5.838	4.989	5.265	4.355	5.146	5.500	5.770	6.188	6.160	6.063	
Aaa corporate bond yield (Moody's) ⁷ (%)	8.83	8.43	8.02	7.98	7.94	7.98	7.92	8.04	8.08	—p	
Interest rate on new home mortgages ⁸ (%)	9.01	8.99	9.01	9.10	9.00	9.02	9.04	9.07	9.07	9.08p	
Housing starts, private (including farm) (thou.)	1,160.4	1,537.5	1,986.4	1,889	2,083	2,029	2,065	2,203	2,121p	2,295p	
Auto sales at retail, total ¹ (mil.)	8.6	10.1	—	11.3	10.9	11.5	10.5	11.0	10.5	11.5p	
Business sales, total ¹ (\$bil.)	180.2	200.1	—	212.1	221.3	223.6	224.2	227.5	229.9p	—	
Business inventories, total ¹ (\$bil.)	281.8	306.3	—	306.3	324.1	326.8	329.5	330.5	332.0p	—	
Sales of all retail stores (\$bil.) ⁹	48.4	53.5	58.9	56.7	58.6	59.0	59.0	60.7	61.5p	61.0p	
Durable goods stores (\$bil.)	14.9	17.5	19.8	19.0	19.5	20.0	19.8	20.9	20.6p	20.3p	
Nondurable goods stores (\$bil.)	33.5	36.0	39.1	37.6	39.0	39.0	39.2	39.9	40.8p	40.7p	
Food stores (\$bil.)	11.5	12.2	13.0	12.7	13.1	13.0	13.1	13.2	13.6p	13.5p	
Eating and drinking places (\$bil.)	4.3	4.8	5.3	5.0	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.6p	5.6p	
Apparel and accessory stores (\$bil.)	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.9	3.0p	2.9p	

¹ Department of Commerce. ² Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. ³ Composite index of 12 leading indicators. ⁴ Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. ⁵ Not seasonally adjusted. ⁶ December of the Year listed. ⁷ Moody's Investors Service. ⁸ Federal Home Loan Bank Board. ⁹ Adjusted for seasonal variations, holidays, and trading day differences. p. Preliminary.

U.S. Agricultural Trade

Prices of principal U.S. agricultural trade products

Items	Annual			1976		1977					
	1975	1976	1977	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Export commodities:											
Wheat, f.o.b. Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	4.16	3.65	2.85	2.93	2.66	2.63	2.78	2.90	3.12	3.18	
Corn, f.o.b. Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	3.10	2.91	2.49	2.67	2.25	2.03	2.07	2.17	2.47	2.55	
Grain sorghum, f.o.b. Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	2.95	2.73	2.30	2.51	2.06	1.95	2.01	2.11	2.36	2.36	
Soybeans, f.o.b. Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	5.72	6.07	7.38	7.09	6.80	6.30	5.36	5.41	6.14	6.31	
Soybean oil, Decatur (cts./lb.)	25.39	18.05	23.69	20.95	23.77	21.13	19.17	18.76	20.99	22.64	
Soybean meal, Decatur (\$/ton)	124.05	155.82	192.17	197.60	162.00	140.30	143.60	135.00	161.70	160.10	
Cotton, 10 market avg. spot (cts./lb.)	44.70	67.70	60.48	73.10	58.18	52.54	49.30	49.06	47.98	48.42	
Tobacco, avg. price of auction (cts./lb.)	103.50	105.73	114.24	114.40	96.72	112.36	123.51	113.04	117.50	117.90	
Rice, f.o.b. mill, Houston (\$/cwt.)	21.28	16.17	16.96	14.10	16.25	16.05	16.50	18.30	22.60	24.15	
Inedible tallow, Chicago (cts./lb.)	12.04	13.27	13.61	12.97	12.88	11.63	11.41	12.45	12.97	13.15	
Import commodities:											
Coffee, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.) .....	.77	1.42	2.41	1.96	2.18	2.02	1.97	1.85	1.90	2.05	
Sugar, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	22.47	13.31	10.99	10.22	10.15	11.21	10.41	10.24	n.a.	n.a.	
Cow meat, f.o.b. port of entry (cts./lb.)	60.20	71.69	68.42	67.93	64.31	63.01	64.18	66.37	67.43	71.89	
Rubber, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	30.60	39.59	41.59	40.22	39.38	40.70	44.40	44.51	43.97	42.58	
Cocoa beans, N.Y. (\$/lb.) .....	.56	.94	1.72	1.55	2.01	1.80	1.78	1.60	1.60	1.48	
Bananas, f.o.b. port of entry (\$/40-lb. box)	4.41	4.67	4.17	4.26	4.24	4.41	4.58	4.68	n.a.	n.a.	
Canned Danish hams, ex-warehouse N.Y. (\$/lb.) ..	1.75	1.75	1.85	1.74	1.90	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.97	1.97	
Quantity Indices											
Export (1967=100)	156	174	n.a.	191	158	150	173	168	197	n.a.	
Import (1967=100)	123	138	n.a.	148	128	128	139	113	104	n.a.	
Unit Value Indices											
Export (1967=100)	221	207	n.a.	206	208	194	189	191	199	n.a.	
Import (1967=100)	203	217	n.a.	246	230	228	213	219	227	n.a.	

n.a. not available.

U.S. agricultural exports

Selected commodities	October-November				November			
	1976		1977p		1976		1977p	
	Thou. units		\$ Thou.		Thou. units		\$ Thou.	
Animals, live, excl. poultry	—	—	21,980	20,651	—	—	10,553	10,963
Meat and preps., excl. poultry (lb.)	169,930	142,261	107,184	98,820	77,695	75,965	46,311	52,050
Dairy products, excl. eggs	—	—	19,792	20,501	—	—	12,304	10,128
Poultry and poultry products	—	—	48,729	52,846	—	—	25,085	25,395
Grains and preparations	—	—	1,896,270	1,221,883	—	—	851,920	667,744
Wheat and wheat flour (bu.)	159,064	130,910	581,881	385,577	55,657	59,778	204,475	183,775
Rice, milled (lb.)	714,505	765,357	96,538	113,050	406,608	584,498	54,320	86,762
Feed grains (metric ton)	10,539	7,590	1,173,377	679,381	5,280	4,159	572,220	378,507
Other	—	—	44,474	43,875	—	—	20,905	18,700
Fruits, nuts, and preparations	—	—	202,226	227,111	—	—	89,581	98,107
Vegetables and preparations	—	—	140,229	91,711	—	—	77,473	51,611
Sugar and preps., incl. honey (lb.)	95,547	56,085	12,519	8,552	63,631	28,351	6,794	4,245
Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, etc. (lb.)	14,634	18,403	17,280	22,378	7,824	9,141	9,527	10,881
Feeds and fodders	—	—	236,005	222,868	—	—	116,882	141,898
Protein meal (short ton)	823	808	138,999	139,434	406	565	69,165	98,634
Beverages, excl. distilled alcoholic (gal.)	1,838	1,400	3,803	2,800	1,035	522	2,088	1,114
Tobacco, unmanufactured (lb.)	104,115	67,609	172,366	126,896	52,507	49,580	82,036	98,162
Hides, skins, and furskins	—	—	106,055	92,988	—	—	52,018	46,493
Oilseeds	—	—	939,102	1,096,829	—	—	505,857	582,826
Soybeans (bu.)	127,464	165,344	850,509	968,077	67,387	87,717	448,729	519,987
Wool, unmanufactured (lb. grease basis)	1,492	1,160	5,017	3,981	564	650	1,984	2,026
Cotton, unmanufactured (running bale)	520	504	176,221	150,008	289	345	94,961	103,690
Fats, oils, and greases (lb.)	463,299	513,185	80,035	94,863	232,436	217,098	39,909	41,732
Vegetable oils and waxes (lb.)	349,326	516,612	93,347	135,021	177,467	305,140	47,013	79,471
Rubber and allied gums (lb.)	8,285	5,347	4,300	3,344	4,587	2,925	2,448	2,090
Other	—	—	89,044	92,604	—	—	46,120	50,892
Total	—	—	4,371,504	3,786,655	—	—	2,120,864	2,081,518

p Preliminary.

U.S. agricultural exports by regions

Region ¹	October-November		November		Change from year-earlier	
	1976		1977p		Oct-Nov 1977p	November 1977p
	\$ Mil.		\$ Mil.		Pct.	Pct.
Western Europe	1,821	1,430	852	742	-21	-13
Enlarged European Community	1,550	1,159	736	603	-25	-18
Other Western Europe	271	271	115	139	—	+21
Eastern Europe and USSR	306	230	166	159	-25	-4
USSR	163	133	92	104	-18	+13
Eastern Europe	143	97	73	54	-32	-26
Asia	1,306	1,176	641	718	-10	+12
West Asia	167	144	78	89	-14	+14
South Asia	176	50	66	28	-72	-58
Southeast Asia, ex. Japan and PRC	325	313	167	194	-4	+16
Japan	638	631	331	370	-1	+12
Peoples Republic of China	0	37	0	37	—	—
Latin America	322	375	168	174	+16	+4
Canada, excluding transshipments	275	254	137	120	-8	-12
Canadian transshipments	116	105	62	53	-9	-15
Africa	199	190	82	102	-6	+24
North Africa	120	116	52	71	-3	+37
Other Africa	79	74	30	31	-6	+3
Oceania	26	27	13	15	+4	+15
Total ³	4,372	3,787	2,121	2,082	-13	-2

¹ Not adjusted for transshipments. ² Less than \$500,000. ³ Totals may not add due to rounding. p Preliminary.

U.S. agricultural imports

Selected commodities	October-November				November			
	1976	1977p	1976	1977p	1976	1977p	1976	1977p
	Thou. units		\$ Thou.		Thou. units		\$ Thou.	
Animals live, excl. poultry	—	—	44,664	58,403	—	—	29,926	40,418
Meat and preps., excl. poultry (lb.)	305,094	203,914	225,726	145,162	135,577	86,512	105,187	62,312
Beef and veal (lb.)	245,819	168,995	145,586	98,407	105,029	72,265	63,737	43,708
Pork (lb.)	50,688	30,021	72,659	42,138	25,799	11,863	34,375	16,482
Dairy products, excl. eggs	—	—	50,864	43,100	—	—	28,355	19,210
Poultry and poultry products	—	—	9,975	7,173	—	—	6,080	2,181
Grains and preparations	—	—	25,481	22,243	—	—	13,361	10,702
Wheat and flour (bu.)	5	1	55	9	2	(1)	53	4
Rice (lb.)	184	1,156	59	164	89	704	34	92
Feed grains (metric ton)	13	29	1,895	2,850	11	15	1,583	1,603
Other	—	—	23,472	19,220	—	—	11,691	9,003
Fruits, nuts, and preparations	—	—	129,306	145,752	—	—	68,366	70,048
Bananas (lb.)	786,731	779,971	52,433	53,973	398,391	375,237	26,294	25,730
Vegetables and preparations	—	—	57,024	66,234	—	—	31,950	29,437
Sugar and preps., incl. honey	—	—	182,605	185,066	—	—	67,328	86,632
Sugar, cane or beet (short ton)	767	934	147,483	156,931	294	437	51,963	71,117
Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, etc. (lb.)	527,371	337,656	621,374	588,596	309,427	181,596	383,707	314,488
Coffee, green (lb.)	352,051	212,573	459,835	374,184	218,066	128,568	294,996	221,020
Cocoa beans (lb.)	44,276	28,659	37,981	57,115	25,944	10,589	23,719	20,963
Feeds and fodders	—	—	12,498	10,040	—	—	6,747	5,949
Protein meal (short ton)	5	1	612	155	3	1	481	113
Beverages, excl. distilled alcoholic (gal.)	23,081	18,629	83,054	73,892	11,766	6,924	43,573	28,381
Tobacco, unmanufactured (lb.)	42,299	48,393	42,345	53,957	18,343	25,156	17,694	26,350
Hides, skins, and furskins	—	—	17,116	17,215	—	—	8,774	6,865
Oilseeds	—	—	15,962	8,844	—	—	8,361	4,493
Soybeans (lb.)	1	9	1	6	1	1	1	1
Wool, (lb. grease basis)	10,240	5,351	11,355	6,223	4,710	2,406	5,386	2,893
Cotton, unmanufactured (running bale)	33	8	9,233	1,299	5	3	275	278
Fats, oils, and greases (lb.)	3,592	2,867	631	708	2,171	510	366	158
Vegetable oils and waxes (lb.)	390,164	234,493	75,786	63,295	317,105	143,698	59,254	35,454
Rubber and allied gums (lb.)	229,702	248,125	81,718	97,127	117,294	83,811	41,600	31,462
Other	—	—	86,335	81,272	—	—	45,389	36,770
Total	—	—	1,783,052	1,669,581	—	—	971,678	814,481

¹ Less than 500,000. p Preliminary.

Trade balance

Items	October-November		November	
	1976	1977p	1976	1977p
\$ Mil.				
Agricultural exports ¹	4,372	3,787	2,121	2,082
Nonagricultural exports ²	15,395	15,169	7,566	7,564
Total exports ²	19,767	18,956	9,687	9,646
Agricultural imports ³	1,783	1,670	972	815
Nonagricultural imports ⁴	19,464	22,107	10,188	11,067
Total imports ⁴	21,247	23,777	11,160	11,882
Agricultural trade balance	2,589	2,117	1,149	1,267
Nonagricultural trade balance	-4,069	-6,938	-2,622	-3,503
Total trade balance	-1,480	-4,821	-1,473	-2,236

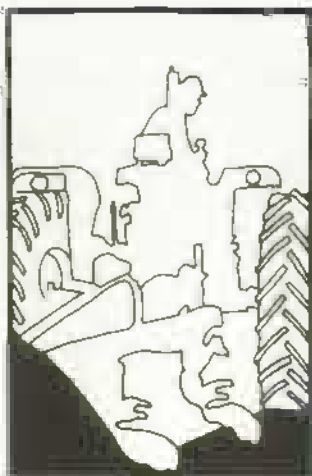
¹ Domestic exports (F.A.S. value). ² Domestic and foreign exports excluding Department of Defense shipments, (F.A.S. value). ³ Imports for consumption (customs value). ⁴ General imports, (customs value). p Preliminary.

World Agricultural Production

World supply and utilization of major crops

Commodity	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77 ¹	1977/78 ²
	Mil. units						
Wheat:							
Area (hectare)	212.8	210.8	216.5	220.4	225.6	232.4	227.6
Production (metric ton)	348.2	343.3	371.6	356.0	348.9	413.4	379.6
Exports (metric ton)	55.6	70.8	72.6	68.0	73.1	70.0	80.3
Consumption (metric ton) ³ . . .	341.4	361.2	363.5	362.5	351.6	375.7	394.0
Ending stocks (metric ton) ⁴ . .	78.8	61.0	69.1	62.6	59.9	97.6	83.2
Coarse grains:							
Area (hectare)	340.9	338.0	351.3	348.6	354.7	357.1	357.2
Production (metric ton)	621.9	602.7	660.9	620.8	634.4	692.3	684.1
Exports (metric ton)	55.5	69.0	80.9	69.5	88.5	88.5	85.1
Consumption (metric ton) ³ . . .	608.6	620.5	665.3	624.5	634.6	672.5	677.0
Ending stocks (metric ton) ⁴ . .	78.4	60.6	56.2	52.5	52.3	72.1	79.2
Rice, rough:							
Area (hectare)	132.0	131.5	135.8	138.1	143.0	141.8	143.5
Production (metric ton)	317.7	308.2	330.9	337.7	360.3	348.2	362.3
Exports (metric ton)	12.0	12.0	11.4	11.0	11.9	12.6	13.6
Consumption (metric ton) ³ . . .	321.0	314.9	328.4	339.0	352.7	352.4	355.6
Ending stocks (metric ton) ⁴ . .	23.7	17.0	19.5	18.2	25.8	21.6	28.3
Total grains:							
Area (hectare)	685.7	680.3	703.6	707.1	723.3	731.3	728.3
Production (metric ton)	1,287.8	1,254.2	1,363.4	1,314.5	1,343.6	1,453.9	1,426.0
Exports (metric ton)	123.1	151.8	164.9	148.5	173.5	171.1	179.0
Consumption (metric ton) ³ . . .	1,271.0	1,296.6	1,357.2	1,326.0	1,338.9	1,400.6	1,426.6
Ending stocks (metric ton) ⁴ . .	180.9	138.6	144.8	133.3	138.0	191.3	190.7
Oilseeds and meals:⁵							
Production (metric ton)	55.9	57.6	68.3	64.4	72.8	66.7	79.5
Trade (metric ton)	25.6	25.6	27.3	27.6	33.6	32.9	35.4
Vegetable fats and oils:⁶							
Production (metric ton)	27.8	27.3	30.8	30.5	33.3	31.4	36.1
Trade (metric ton)	9.1	9.2	9.5	10.0	11.7	12.1	13.3
Cotton:							
Area (hectare)	33.2	33.6	32.8	33.4	30.0	31.3	32.6
Production (bale)	59.8	63.0	63.2	64.3	54.1	58.0	64.8
Exports (bale)	18.6	21.0	19.6	17.3	19.0	18.1	18.6
Consumption (bale)	58.3	60.0	62.0	58.5	62.1	61.2	61.4
Ending stocks (bale)	21.1	23.7	25.1	30.1	22.2	18.7	22.3

¹ Estimate. ² Forecast. ³ Where stock data not available (excluding USSR), consumption includes stock changes. ⁴ Stocks data are based on differing marketing years and do not represent levels at a given date. Data not available for all countries; includes estimated change in USSR grain stocks but not absolute level. ⁵ Soybean meal equivalent. ⁶ Calendar year data. 1972 data corresponds with 1971/72, 1973 data with 1972/73, etc..



COMMODITY OUTLOOK

FOR FARMERS



Dear Producer:

Farm prices right now are nothing to write home about. That's an old saw to those of you who have been through boom and bust. What IS new is a series of newsletters launched by USDA geared specifically to the concerns of farmers. We'll send them to you--absolutely free--if you'll fill out the form below and return it to us.

COMMODITY OUTLOOK FOR FARMERS has been authorized by Congress to give you timely information for making decisions about marketing your products and working your farm or ranch. It keeps you abreast of current events affecting your marketing and cropping plans, such as the 1977 farm law. Should you sell or store? We'll explain the options. Prospects for farm prices, production, domestic and worldwide outlook for supply and demand...how to interpret marketing and planting intentions reports...and much more.

COMMODITY OUTLOOK FOR FARMERS, published by USDA's Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service, covers five different commodities plus a bonus general letter to all subscribers. Publication dates vary, depending on major developments of interest to you.

Send me the free COMMODITY OUTLOOK FOR FARMERS for the titles I've checked below:

☐ Wheat ☐ Feed ☐ Livestock ☐ Oilseeds ☐ Cotton ☐ General (only)

Name

Organization

Address

City

State

ZIP

Mail to:

Farmers Newsletter
USDA Box 1500
La Plata, MO. 20646

ORDER NOW!

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

To order recent ESCS publications, circle the number of the report described. For fastest service, leave label on reverse side intact. Clip and return form to:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ECONOMICS, STATISTICS, AND COOPERATIVES SERVICE
PUBLICATIONS
ROOM 0054—SOUTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

AER-392	AER-393	AH-524	ERS-368 (Supplement 8)	ERS-663	FAER-141
FAER-142	SB-581	SB-586	SB-587	SB-588	SB-594

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1978

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

MAIL TO:
SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20402

Enter my subscription to AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK at \$17.00 U.S., \$21.25 foreign:

NAME—FIRST, LAST																								
COMPANY NAME OR ADDITIONAL ADDRESS LINE																								
STREET ADDRESS																								
CITY										STATE					ZIP CODE									

- ☐ Renewal
☐ New subscription
☐ Here is my check for \$ _____ payable to Superintendent of Documents)
☐ Charge to my Deposit Account No. _____

*Please allow 6 weeks for subscription processing
Use correct *Postal Service* abbreviation for State;
Do not omit zip code.

MICROFICHE ORDER FORM

MAIL TO:
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE
5285 PORT ROYAL ROAD
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22161

Enter my microfiche subscription(s) to AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK (NTISUB/C/151) at \$25.75 first subscription (North American Continent addresses); \$21 each additional if ordered at the same time to the same address. Other address: \$45 each.

Name _____
Organization _____
Address _____
City, State _____
Zip Code _____

- ☐ Here is my check for \$ _____ payable to NTIS.
☐ Charge my NTIS Deposit Account No. _____
☐ Charge to my American Express Card Account Number: _____
 Expiration date _____

Signature _____

*Please allow 6 weeks for subscription processing.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1978

For info on PDF Compression and OCR visit our website

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
AGR 301
FIRST CLASS



To submit a change of address, please cut or peel off the mailing label from your most recent issue of Agricultural Outlook. Mail it along with your new address to: Mailing Unit, Office of Operations, Room 1554 South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Allow 6 weeks for processing.